

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The year 2020 is being engraved as one of the most challenging periods in our collective memory. Social isolation, and health and economic disparities have deepened among our patients, particularly among those of lower socio-economic status. I am running for Chair of the North American Commission of the ILAE to work with our national chapters to 1) improve our access to Epilepsy care, 2) help improve Epilepsy education among primary care providers, 3) accelerate the diversification of our Epilepsy workforce, and 4) continue to support our nurturing spaces for dissemination and debate of scientific ideas. I have been fortunate to serve in the executive board of the North American Commission between 2013-17 as the Treasurer of our organization. At the time, I helped creating lasting and sustaining relationships between Epilepsy centers across the Americas. While I remain strongly committed to pursue joint regional projects with other ILAE Commissions, I believe the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemia exposed major fractures within our region that require urgent advocacy. I hope that you consider my nomination for Chair of the North American Commission of the ILAE for 2021-2024.

Best,



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Brief Biography

Dr. José E. Cavazos is Professor of Neurology and Assistant Dean for the MD/PhD Program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, now called UT Health San Antonio™. He has performed extensive professional service to the epilepsy community as a member of NIH Study Sections and Panels for more than 15 years—helping draft the law that created the VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence, participating in FDA panels for epilepsy drugs and devices, serving as an editorial board member of *Epilepsy Research* and *Epilepsy and Behavior*, and chaired the AES committees for Student and Resident Education, Technology and Web Content, and the 2010 Scientific Meeting in San Antonio. He created and funded the Partnering Epilepsy Centers in the Americas (PECA) project with more than 35 partnerships between epilepsy centers in Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America. This project was administered by the North American Commission of ILAE between 2008 and 2017. The partnerships contributed to accelerate the creation of ILAE chapters in several countries. He has also served as ILAE's treasurer for the North American Commission for the 2013-17 quadrennium.

Dr. Cavazos was born in Monterrey, Mexico, where he later attended medical school. He graduated as a physician and surgeon with honors from the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, and then pursued a Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Sutula. He completed a neurology residency and a clinical neurophysiology/epilepsy fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. He has been Neurology faculty member of the University of Wisconsin, University of Colorado, and the University of Texas. In 2020, he was elected to the UT System Shine Academy of Health Educators. Dr. Cavazos is the 2020-21 chair of the MD/PhD Section of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and National Association of MD/PhD Programs.