

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am deeply honoured to be nominated by the management committee to serve for the position of Chair for the ILAE – Africa for 2021 – 2025 term.

In the previous term, I have served as the Board member for the commission on African Affairs as well as a member of two Task forces, first on a Task force on Access to Medicine and Treatment, and second on a Task force for Transition from Child to Adult Epilepsy care.

During my previous work and experiences within the ILAE, I have realised that the ILAE will be able to achieve its goals when all the Chapters from all the countries are strengthened, and thus able to perform and advocate for Epilepsy care.

If I do get elected to be the Chair of the ILAE – Africa, I will have three main priorities during my term. Firstly, I will focus on strengthening the ILAE chapters in all countries in Africa. I will ensure all the chapters are becoming active, increasing the number of members as well as improving networking between the chapters through various social media avenues. I will ensure the chapters are getting support to facilitate lobbying with their respective governments and local authorities to promote epilepsy awareness, education and access to appropriate care for all, particularly in those living in resource limited areas.

Secondly, I will promote Epilepsy awareness. Building on the great work that has been done by the previous ILAE- Chairs in Africa, I will promote and encourage the Chapters to have regular Epilepsy awareness activities throughout the year in order to reduce stigma. This can be done through radio/television programs and various social media avenues. The Chapters will be receiving support with various Epilepsy information and educational materials from ILAE.

Thirdly, I will promote educational activities in all ILAE chapters across Africa. I will encourage each chapter to have at least one educational activity per year promoting Epilepsy care. I will advocate for strengthening the collaboration between ILAE, WHO, WFN and other organisations involved in promoting access to appropriate Epilepsy care. I will advocate for regional meetings/webinars where experts from across the world will be able to educate clinicians in Africa involved in Epilepsy care either physically or virtually.

I do believe, stronger and active ILAE chapters particularly in Africa will play a huge role in promoting and improving Epilepsy care, awareness as well as access to medications particularly in areas where resources are limited and the burden of Epilepsy is huge.

If I do get elected I will advocate for Stronger Chapters – Stronger ILAE.

I am most grateful for your support,

Edward Kija