

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Dear colleagues and friends

It is a real honour to be nominated as a candidate for the forthcoming ILAE Management Committee elections (2021-2025). I wish to thank all those that considered my nomination, independently of their final vote.

For 110 years, thousands of us committed themselves to ILAE missions and worked hard in favour of an **across borders strategy for the development of care pathways** in epilepsy and for advances in research and knowledge. Together with the IBE, we fostered a vision that systematically considers patient and societal needs jointly. Today we are entering a new and challenging era of “*precision medicine*”, of “*targeted therapies*” that urgently need to become accessible to all and of “*personalized medicine*”. The role of the ILAE as a world-wide based scientific society can only become increasingly important.

In the previous years I had the privilege to represent the French chapter of the ILAE at several occasions, including the organization of one of the most successful ILAE International Congresses (Paris, 2005). I also served our international community as a member of: the ILAE Commission for European Affairs; the Education; Publications and Communication task forces; the Commissions for the definition of the epilepsies; the definition of drug resistance; the Engel TF for the classification of epileptic syndromes; the Paediatric Epilepsy surgery task force. From 2014 to 2017, I contributed to the collective actions that led to the recognition, by the European Commission, of the need to create a European Reference Network specific to rare and complex epilepsies (ERN EpiCARE). Since last year, my peers entrusted me with the responsibility to co-coordinate EpiCARE, together with our President-Elect, Pr. Helen Cross.

It is all this experience that I would now like to put at the service of the ILAE leadership.

Born and having studied in Greece, I also had the chance to train, work and live, as a rather “privileged immigrant”: for a short time in the UK, for almost a lifetime in France and occasionally in Spain. It was probably this pan European trajectory that made me realize how much important **education and knowledge** are. In 1999, together with some close friends mainly from the EU, I launched the first international epilepsy journal with video sequences and served it as Editor-in-Chief for 22 consecutive years (a mission that ends this coming December 2020), with one idea in mind: **serve education and training** beyond the classic academic walls. Making Video-EEG teaching material accessible to all, independently of their country of medical practice, I hope that *Epileptic Disorders* - today the educational journal of the ILAE - offered to many young colleagues the possibility to publish their works. To also understand and learn, from those that disposed the necessary technical facilities, **the essence of epileptology**: clinical semiology at the service of diagnosis and optimal treatment. Working for the journal was also an opportunity to organize several workshops, gathering together those that constantly serve advances in epileptology and the future generations that will ensure continuation of essential health activities in the field.

My motivation to contribute to the key priorities identified for the next 5 years remains intact. I appreciate working closely with colleagues and friends from all over the world as much as I still appreciate remaining close to my clinical practice and to my patients.

Alexis Arzimanoglou