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Statement

It is a great honor to be nominated for election for the position of Chair of the Commission on Eastern Mediterranean Affairs 2013-2017 CEMA, and here I lay out my personal priorities for the program of work for the next 4 years, if elected:

1. Expand the Awareness Program In the Eastern Mediterranean Region:

Information on this important educational initiative will be supplied. We will select volunteers for the Epilepsy Support group in the region.

Program Objectives

- To impart basic understanding about epilepsy as a common and treatable health issue.
- To facilitate seizure recognition and an appropriate response in the classroom.
- To promote better understanding of the unique needs of students with epilepsy.
- To encourage classroom integration and acceptance of students with epilepsy.
- To reduce the societal stigma and the discrimination surrounding epilepsy.
- To increase overall societal awareness, understanding and recognition of epilepsy.

One such program, that has proven very successful, is the Awareness Program & purple day which occurs periodically in Saudi Arabia. Regularly organized Awareness Conferences target various groups of school administrators, teachers and student will be expanded over the Eastern Mediterranean Region. To facilitate this program, a series of standardized lectures and presentations will be developed that may be utilized by a variety of appropriate speakers to present the same basic material to different groups of educators and school administrators at all levels of the educational system.

The topics covered include basic medical information on epilepsy and seizures, Seizure First Aid, Epilepsy in the Classroom and the Teachers Role, Learning Disabilities, and the Effects of Medication on Learning. A brief film about epilepsy illustrating seizure first aid for varied seizure types is followed by an interactive seizure first aid demonstration. The lectures are supplemented by the distribution of a School Reference Package to every Conference attendee. The package includes, a booklet entitled "Epilepsy and Education, the Role of the Teacher", a CD copy of the Seizure First Aid Film and a children's story book about epilepsy.

2. To coordinate academic activities among the ILAE Eastern Mediterranean Region chapters:

I think that education, and advocacy is key fundamental features of the CEMA role. In relation to education, we need to have surplus funds to provide the source for other important CEMA sponsored educational activities. I organized the Eastern Province Epilepsy strategic plan for the development of some of Saudi Arabia Epilepsy Related Activity. Coordination among various regions of Eastern Mediterranean would achieve our goals of expanding the education. I think that the collaboration among various Eastern Mediterranean Region will give us the opportunity to build a framework for concerted action at global ,regional and national levels to raise awareness for epilepsy and reduce the treatment gap.

3. Ensure proper treatment for every patient with epilepsy in all Eastern Mediterranean Region:

Despite the seemingly gloomy picture, we should not lose hope. Most of the causes of symptomatic epilepsy are preventable and treatable. Antiepileptic can provide effective treatment that is both available and relatively inexpensive. In up to of people, epilepsy can be fully controlled by antiepileptic medicines. In developing countries, however, up to 90% of people with epilepsy may not receive the treatment they need. The resultant wide treatment gap remains a cause of tremendous individual, family, social and economic burden.

4. Research:

It is essential that epilepsy and epilepsy research achieve high priority in Eastern Mediterranean regions to understand the pattern of the illness in the regions and to be able to provide best care ever to our patients.

To summarize my vision, mission and goals:

Vision:

To achieve status of Level 4 Epilepsy Center-the highest rating- by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers in various Eastern Mediterranean regions .

Achieve excellence in research related to Epilepsy.

To provide best education and training in field of Epilepsy and related disorders.

Mission:

To provide the most advanced care for patients with seizures, with warmth and compassion, emphasizing an individualized holistic approach.

Goal:

Seizure Free, Side Effect Free and Improved Quality of Life, for each and every patient