

Emirates LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

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Dear Chapter Presidents

I am writing to indicate my commitment to standing for election to the Executive Committee of the Commission on Eastern Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA). The mission of the CEMA, to promote epilepsy education to health care providers and to ensure that all individuals in our region have the necessary educational and research resources needed to understand, diagnose and treat persons with epilepsy is a goal that I support and share with all of you. If elected as an officer of the CEMA, I will continue to strive to serve our constituency and to further our common goals as we stand up for epilepsy together

My commitment to the CEMA is long standing. I have worked at several subcommittees and taskforces for the CEMA working toward improving standards in the care of people with epilepsy. I have also participated, as a faculty member, in several educational courses that aimed toward updating our healthcare providers with the recent developments in the field and share the most up to date recommendations for assessment and management of patients with epilepsy. Furthermore, I am, with collaboration with key faculty members in our CEMA region, in the process of developing guidelines for various aspects in the care of patients with epilepsy.

During the past two years serving as a President of the Emirates League Against Epilepsy (ELAE), I have witnessed the positive impact following the ILAE and CEMA mission in improving the standards of epilepsy care. For example in our region, we have managed to reach out to several regions in the Emirates to enhance knowledge about this disorder to all health care providers and to set up several awareness campaigns targeting the public, patients and their families. In addition, and as a practicing adult epileptologist I have a major research interest as well as service commitment, to accelerate the translational of research findings rapidly into clinical practice. However, poor recognition and inequality of care is apparent in many areas around our region, both in resource rich as well as resource poor countries. As part of the CEMA Executive, I will work toward finding ways to improve recognition of epilepsy as a health care priority in every part of our region.

I have been privileged to witness the enormous strides forward the ILAE and CEMA has made over the past years and I am very passionate about being part of the team to take this forward so that the CEMA has major continued impact on epilepsy care in our region, with the aim to reach the ILAE mission: "to ensure that health professionals, patients and their care providers, governments, and the

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public world-wide have the educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating persons with epilepsy”.

Thank you for your support and I would be greatly honored to have the vote of your Chapter.

Yours sincerely,

Taoufik Alsaadi, MD
President, ELAE