

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to start by thanking those of you who have nominated me to serve on the ILAE's Commission on East Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) for the 2017-2021 term. In doing so, I confirm my commitment to you all to continue the collaborative work we are establishing in our region.

The ILAE has been working for years to spread the word of Epilepsy and advancement of the body of knowledge about it from the basic sciences to the clinical work, and through its relation to the patients and society. To help with that target the different ILAE regions were created to promote the ILAE goals in a manner that suits each part of the world in accordance with their peculiarities and needs. The CEMA region is still working to have its contribution to the field of Epilepsy and help alleviate much of the suffering of patients with epilepsy who are dealing with the stigma and harsh everyday environment at work and home.

I am looking forward to be part of the effort put together by the different CEMA members to advance the education of Epilepsy, and establish a collaborative framework for research and exchange of expertise between the CEMA members. This has started with the biannual CEMA meetings, and would hopefully extend to further scientific and social activities. This would also be helped by identifying key deficiencies related to Epilepsy in the different countries and using the regional expertise and resources to address them in a comprehensive manner. Epilepsy registry in our region is something I hope to establish. It will provide us with key insights into the horizon of epilepsy and the outcome of our interventions.

Finally, I thank you all for your commitment to help patients with Epilepsy and hope to be your voice in CEMA.

Respectfully yours,



Abdulaziz Ashkanani