

It has been one of the great experiences of my career to serve in the International League Against Epilepsy. During these nine years, I have learned much about how epilepsy affects the lives of people around the world and about the extraordinary creativity of our members to deliver care under very difficult conditions. Because I believe in the unique role of the League in improving the lives of people with epilepsy, I ask for your support to serve on the Management Committee.

In recent years the League and its partner, the IBE, have worked hard to increase the visibility and priority of epilepsy as a public health issue. Joint efforts with the World Health Organization have resulted in the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy, the PanAmerican Health Organization's Strategy and Plan for Epilepsy, the European Written Declaration on Epilepsy, the Institute of Medicine's report on epilepsy and the World Health Assembly's Resolution on Epilepsy in 2015. These accomplishments have changed the environment for people with epilepsy, because governments across the globe have agreed that epilepsy requires more attention than it has received. These experiences have taught me the central role that the League must continue to play as a major international advocate for epilepsy training, research and care. We must continue to build on this hard won momentum and continue to work with international health authorities to develop specific action plans that can be adapted by our chapters to work within their particular circumstances. As a member of the Management Committee I will advocate strongly for efforts to improve the visibility of epilepsy and for better allocation of resources to combat it. Other key goals include

**Expand the educational and training opportunities at our Congresses and regional meetings.** The congresses have been an outstanding opportunity for presenting and sharing the latest advances in clinical and laboratory research. Many of our members have indicated that training more directed towards their practice and career development would be welcome. I will work to align our educational programs to the needs of all of our members and to raise levels of practice and research to the benefit of people with epilepsy.

**Strengthen our advocacy.** Work with our partner organizations at the international level and with many chapters at the national level has improved support for epilepsy clinical services and access to those services, but the treatment gap remains unchanged for many. Improved treatments also require continued support for basic research. Together with the IBE, the League must remain a strong voice for epilepsy globally, regionally and nationally so that epilepsy remains visible and a priority to those who allocate resources.

To remain an influential voice for epilepsy internationally we must maintain the League's status as epilepsy thought-leader through our publications and position papers as well as our involvement in professional and patient organizations. None of this can happen without resources, so we must also maintain the financial health of the ILAE by being good stewards of our resources and developing new sources of revenue for our advocacy and training efforts.

The League's influence on the global perception of the severity and importance of epilepsy as a public health issue has grown significantly in recent years, and I will work hard to maintain that growth. The overall goal remains better epilepsy care through improved access and research. Thank you for your attention and support.