

STATEMENT OF MEIR BIALER

It is a great honour to be nominated for election for the position of Chair of the CEA, and here I lay out my personal priorities for the program of work for the next 4 years, if elected:

(a) European Congresses of Epileptology (ECE): A key CEA activity is to organize and deliver these congresses. These are premiere events on the European calendar, and are now global in nature and provide an unequalled scientific and educational program. I hope you will agree that they are enjoyable and worthwhile meetings. I have been heavily involved in the organization of the three recent past congresses (Berlin, Rhodes, London), and I am co-Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 2014 Stockholm congress. I will use my experience to build on these so that they continue to be outstanding and world-leading.

(b) Education: In my personal view, education, and advocacy are key fundamental features of the CEA role. In relation to education, we have in the past 4 years used the surplus funds from the ECE to provide the source for other important CEA sponsored educational activities. I chaired the CEA strategic plan for the development of European activity using these funds in 2009, and was instrumental in establishing the principle of funding the four Caucasian Summers School on epilepsy (2008-2012), the Eilat International Courses on the Pharmacological Treatment of Epilepsy (since 2005) and the Migrating Courses on Clinical Epileptology (since 2007). A particular success has been the promotion of focused European scientific conferences and I would favour extending these, Examples in the past have included the Status Epilepticus Colloquia and the San Servolo congresses, which have proved of high scientific and educational value and add considerable value to European epileptology.

(c) Advocacy: It is essential that epilepsy and epilepsy research achieve high priority in European Union research funding, and that CEA and ILAE continue to combine forces in advocacy to this end. I assisted in the successful advocacy of epilepsy in the European Council resulting in their adoption of the condition as a key priority and the subsequent listing of epilepsy as a funding opportunity in the EU research Framework. This has the potential to be of huge importance to epilepsy in Europe, and if elected I would hope all individuals in Europe will work with the CEA to promote this work.

In the above activities, I will commit myself personally vigorously to assist (a) in the development of the international careers of talented individuals in Europe, to the benefit of patients with epilepsy, and also (b) the promotion of all chapters especially the smaller chapters which are new to the ILAE and have so much potential. The CEA, under my chairmanship, will also continue to expand bursaries and support schemes to assist individuals. I will also work to ensure that there are real and meaningful contacts and communication between the CEA and the various European ILAE chapters, to assist in and support their activities.

Europe, as a family of Nations, has an outstanding record in epilepsy and in the ILAE. This is a record which I believe the CEA has contributed to and should build upon. I will focus particularly on combining the input and energy from the newer chapters with their enormous potential, with that of the more established chapters. During my years of service on the CEA, I have been privileged to work with a team of highly committed colleagues. I believe that we have made significant progress in fulfilling our goals. CEA is now in a position to move forward, to create new initiatives, and to render unsurpassed service to individuals and chapters in Europe, for the benefit of epilepsy. If elected, I look forward to working closely with you to achieve the ILAE and CEA mission in the next years to come.



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