

LETTER OF INTENT

Education is perhaps the most strategic aspect that I would be able to collaborate with the ILAE-EC. During the period I was acting as Chair of the ILAE Neurobiology Commission, I was deeply impressed by the potential of residential courses to attract and develop young talent. In 2007, I have therefore initiated the annual Latin-American Summer School on Epilepsy (LASSE) which has now taken place 6 times. Many observers described LASSE as a landmark event which completely changed the outlook of epileptology in Latin America. Both educational and research capacity strengthening has been highlighted in national and international programs. However, this is not implemented overnight but requires long and systematic efforts. Education needs to become available to really everybody in all parts of the world, including basic health workers who bear most of the burden of primary epilepsy care in many countries. These issues need to be addressed by short- and long-term strategies on the individual, institutional and global levels, paying attention to differences according to country development status. A special focus on specific needs in the less economically developed areas of the world will be essential to develop a global program as a network of local stakeholders together with goodwill epileptologists from the developed world. One of the pleasures with working in epilepsy is the experience that this goodwill exists in great number in our international community.

Another important strategic point is the need to emphasize translational research worldwide. Educational courses on translational research have therefore been introduced in the programs of some of our regional congresses, e.g. the Latin American, the Asian/Oceanian and, more recently, the African Congresses and can be an initial step in the establishment of research networks in the developing world. The involvement of regional, sub-regional and trans-regional structures would be fundamental to establish a continuum process for developing and analyzing alternatives and to spread relevant, accurate and timely information to the national chapters of all important subjects. The promotion of research in underserved regions is a major and indispensable tool for the improvement of epilepsy care in these areas.

My background in the health and science politics of my own country and after having served as Professor for more than twenty years, I consider an honor to offer my efforts to join the Executive Committee of the ILAE.



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RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

All aspects of epilepsy with special emphasis on experimental models and translational application - Epilepsy Education in less economically developed areas - Social aspects of the epilepsies

MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Establishment of the Brazilian Association of Epilepsy, the lay Brazilian branch of the IBE - 1987

Dean for Graduate Students at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil – 1992-1999

Secretary for the Ministry of Science and Technology from Brazil – 1999-2001

President of the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq) – 2001-2003

Chair of the ILAE Neurobiology Commission – 2001-2005

IBE Secretary General – 2001-2005

Member of the ILAE Educational Commission – 2005-2009

Life/Health Sciences Advisor for the Presidency of the Brazilian Center for Strategic Studies – 2006 - present

MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

- Michael Foundation Award, Germany, 1987.
- Milken Family Foundation – AES Award – 1997.
- Ambassador for Epilepsy – ILAE/IBE, 1999.

PUBLICATIONS: More than 300 publications in peer-reviewed journals on different aspects of epilepsy and neurosciences.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Professor and Dean for Graduate Students at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo (1992-1999) where I established a epilepsy research centre of excellence in Brazil
- Part time work in Brasília, after indication to be one of the advisors for the Ministry of Science and Technology from Brazil – 1999-2001
- President of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), the National agency to support science, technology and innovation in Brazil (2001-2003)
- Secretary General of the IBE and ex-officio member of the ILAE-Executive Committee (2001-2005)
- Chair of the ILAE Neurobiology Commission (2001-2005)
- Chair of the Educational sub-Commission on Neurobiology of the epilepsies (2005-2009).

