



The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past five years, I have had the privilege of participating as an elected member of the North American Commission (NAC) of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). As a team we have worked to help advance the care of persons with epilepsy throughout its territories. I am extremely honored to have been nominated and expressing a desire to continue to serve on this Commission.

In 2008 the Commission offered me the opportunity, through its PECA program, to collaboratively share expertise with my Colleagues in Jamaica. This partnership eventually evolved, through outreach and combined efforts inclusive of leadership of the NAC and ILAE, to the Epilepsy Society of the Caribbean. Working together we were able to advance education, improve access, foster advocacy and expand and change management for persons with Epilepsy. There continues to be a discernable collaborative atmosphere within the North American Commission and between its affiliated organizations, the American Epilepsy Society, Canadian League Against Epilepsy and the Epilepsy Society of the Caribbean. I have also been fortunate to observe these efforts expand beyond the borders of the NAC to other organizations and Commissions within the ILAE.

Epilepsy care through global linkages, as advocated by the International League Against Epilepsy and its President Dr. Sam Weibe, places the responsibility on us to maximize our efforts in improving management, increasing access and advancing knowledge for and about individuals with epilepsy in a sustainable but fiscally responsible way. I humbly believe that in working with regional colleagues, although at times with hurdles, we have been affecting change in the correct direction. I believe that in order to continue efforts one has to be open to novel ideas and pool together all stakeholders inclusive of basic scientists and health care providers addressing physical, medical, psychosocial and neuropsychological needs. Advocacy for individuals with epilepsy and their families should also be at the forefront of our efforts.

I believe I am in a unique position of bringing a different perspective to this committee, since I grew up in Antigua, a small developing nation, lived in several other Caribbean Islands, and also training and working in both the United States and Canada. I sincerely believe that it is our duty to advocate for those who are underserve and I intend to do so if allowed to continue serve on the North American Commission. I am therefore requesting the ability to continue in the great efforts already initiated and future new and novel approaches of expanding care for all individuals with epilepsy.

Sincerely,

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