



## **DANA CRAIU**

**candidate for the CEA-ILAE 2017-2021**

**It is in my nature to constantly improve myself, to learn what I find good and useful from all around me.**

**Dear distinguished leaders of the ILAE Chapters,**

**Dear friends,**

I am honored to come in front of you seeking for your support for the upcoming election of members of the Commission on European Affairs (CAE) of the International League of Epilepsy (ILAE) for the term 2017-2021.

I am Professor of Pediatric Neurology at “Carol Davila” University of Medicine, Bucharest, Romania and I lead the Romanian Chapter of the ILAE.

**WHY should you vote for me?**

Because I come from Eastern Europe and know very well the situation in this area, I am a Pediatric Neurologist and I have extensive links with the European Pediatric Neurology community, I have the experience of the previous 4 years as a member of the CEA-ILAE, I proved hard work and efficiency in epilepsy education and research areas and not in the last time, I am a team player.

**East European advisor.** No one can understand better what the realities in the Eastern European area are, than a person living 22 years during a communist regime and then another 28 years in a post-communist times. The paternalist system, the lack of resources – both theoretical and financial (poor access to specialty literature or high difficulties to attend international courses and congresses) and the archaic organization of the medical system were and still are in some parts of Eastern Europe breaks in creating a fair and equal access to proper medical care for the patients with epilepsy. My fight was and is to create active and efficient links, relationships among East European countries who share the same history and experience, the same problems of the health system, but also links with Europe. My fight is to try to change the mentalities, to make value count, to create premises to homogenize and raise the level of knowledge and medical practice in our countries for pediatric neurology and epileptology. These actions will fit exactly in our main actions of our President – **Knowledge translation and education, Improving access to care.**

**Pediatric Neurology links and experience** will allow me to contribute to “**expanding boundaries**” within ILAE. I had the honor of being invited and then elected a member of the European Pediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) Board (since 2004) and I served 2 terms as the Chair of the Commission of National Advisors (CNA) and of the Training Advisory Board (TAB) of the EPNS, serving as well as a member of Education and Training and further on of the Scientific Commissions. I succeeded to make Romania count on the map of European Pediatric Neurology, to show our avidity for knowledge, the high quality of the

Romanian professionals; further on, I created a network with the colleagues from Eastern European Countries and started collaboration in medical care and research in Pediatric Neurology and Epilepsy, common educational activities, common research.

**CEA-ILAE experience.** In ILAE I served one term in the Pediatric Commission, contributing to the Task Force Report concerning the recommendations for the management of infantile seizures. I was appointed in 2014 by the ILAE President, Emilio Perucca as a member of the CEA-ILAE, and during the last 4 years I gained experience and knowledge, I've learned the mechanisms of fighting for epilepsy.

I militated and succeeded to introduce childhood epilepsy and Eastern Europe issues as priorities among the activities of the CEA-ILAE.

I proposed and created the *East European Course of Epilepsy*, endorsed by CEA-ILAE. The course was organized 2 times in Romania (2014, 2016) and in 2017 – Bulgaria. This is the first course of such magnitude, quite necessary for this part of Europe, bringing together well recognized Epilepsy experts from whole Europe, but promoting East European speakers, offering at very affordable costs a **high quality education to the local physicians dealing with epilepsy and leading to improvement of care for epilepsy patients**; the course promotes interaction among Eastern European colleagues, creating premises for further collaborative research and trans-border medical care in Eastern Europe. The course was a huge success accommodating 180 specialists from 12 countries in the area. And I was not alone: our East European team, colleagues and friends made this course a success: Alla Guekht, Stanislav Groppa (previous co-directors of the course), Petia Dimova (important speaker and taking over the 2017 course), Dragslav Sokic, Nebojsa Jovic, Kyriacos Garganis, beside well known experts: Helen Cross, Hans Holthausen, Walter van Emde Boas, Eugen Trinkka, Sandor Beniczky, Meir Bialer, etc.

I will continue promoting: 1. Twinning among tutoring centers from developed countries and centers from Eastern Europe; 2. Funding with priority fellowships and travel bursaries for individuals involved in comprehensive programs, than for isolated individuals. 3. Developing services I hope these will be further accomplished.

**Research.** It is important to create premises for Easter and Central European countries to be part of common (multinational) European research initiatives in epilepsy and bring Eastern Europe in the context of today's epilepsy research. Special populations living in this area might be of interest for epilepsy research. Childhood epilepsy research is my greatest priority, as are promoting meetings for epilepsy research and facilitating interaction of researchers.

**If elected,** I will dedicate time and energy to continue the activities I started, to work together with the CEA team for fulfilling the CEA strategic goals for improving **education, research and medical care** for epilepsy and reducing social stigma for the patients. **I will fight for the Eastern European countries** to join the collaborative Networks, research and education.

**I kindly ask you to vote me as a member of the Commission on European Affairs for the term 2017 to 2021.**

**Dana Craiu**

Professor of Pediatric Neurology

Carol Davila University of Medicine,

Head of the Pediatric Neurology Department Obregis Hospital, Bucharest Romania

