



Clinical Neurosciences  
UCL- Institute of Child Health  
30 Guilford St  
London  
WC1N  
06/10//2016

I am writing to confirm my desire to stand for re-election to the Management Committee of the International League Against Epilepsy. It has been an enormous privilege to serve as Secretary General over the recent term. During this time I have really become aware of the challenges and opportunities posed by the global epilepsy community. We have taken enormous strides forward and I am passionate about being part of the team to continue. The mission of the ILAE, to ensure that all individuals world-wide have the educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating persons with epilepsy, is integral to the vision we set ourselves in moving forward, and I feel we are continuing to do this.

In my work as a paediatric neurologist I specialise in the care of children with epilepsy, striving to improve our understanding of underlying causes and consequently outcomes. I have a major research interest as well as service commitment. One of my key priorities is the translation of research findings rapidly into clinical practice. However, poor recognition and inequality of care is apparent in many areas around the world, both in resource rich as well as resource poor countries and I am dedicated to working toward more equality of care across all regions, in all aspects of the epilepsies. Great benefits can be achieved through joint working. There is a long history of working with the WHO; it is important to continue not only this work, together in partnership with the IBE, but also work with other international organisations such as the World Federation of Neurology and the International Child Neurology Association to enhance epilepsy care throughout the world.

Over the past four years we have established further outreach to our community, with an increase in established chapters, and established congresses in all regions. However it is paramount to consider the educational needs as well as research gaps that remain, acknowledging the differing requirements across cultures and communities. We can only do this through continuing to work as a team, collaborative working with other organisations, as well as integrated working across all areas of the community. Sam Wiebe, who I have worked closely with over the past four years, has identified five key priority areas on which to focus during his Presidency. I absolutely agree with these priorities and if elected will fully support Sam in delivering and achieving these objectives.

I have developed a detailed understanding of how the ILAE functions and have a continued strong appetite to further develop the great work that has already been done.

I would be grateful for your support

Yours sincerely

Professor J Helen Cross OBE