

**Dominique Enyama, MD, Paediatrician, Child neurologist**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Dear all,

I feel very honoured to have been nominated for the elections of the ILAE-AFRICA committee members and it is with great excitement that I accept to run in the elections.

I am Dr Dominique ENYAMA, MD, paediatrician and child neurologist. I came to child neurology during my paediatric residency, through my mentors, Professor Elie MBONDA and Professor Séraphin NGUEFACK, both members of the Cameroonian League against Epilepsy, respectively past president and actual treasurer. I completed my medical degree and my specialization in paediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaoundé I (Cameroon), respectively in 2005 and 2012. I also completed an Inter-University Diploma in child neurology at the University of Tours (France) in 2015, after a one year fellowship in the child neurology department of Bicêtre University Hospital Centre (France), under the supervision of Professor Marc TARDIEU. Being a young child neurologist in a resource-limited country is sometimes quite challenging. There are only 6 child neurologists for 10 million children in Cameroon. Diagnosis resources, especially EEG machines are lacking. Patients have difficulties to get their treatment due to high cost and unavailability of some drugs.

Since my return to Cameroon, I practice at the Gyneco-Obstetric and Paediatric Hospital of Douala, a university hospital which was launched 6 years ago. I focus my practice on the care of children with epilepsy and seizures as it represents up to one-fourth of my daily practice. In that perspective, I started a child neurology clinic in 2015 in the paediatrics department and launched a Video-EEG laboratory in 2016. I was appointed head of the paediatrics department 1 year ago.

I am also an assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Dschang, and a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Douala. As such, I am involved in the training of medical students and paediatric residents, as well as the supervision of their research work. I equally train the health caregiver team of the paediatrics department, including EEG recording technicians, nurses and general practitioners, on the diagnosis and management of child epilepsy and seizures.

Concerning research, I have contributed to various papers, some focusing on EEG in child and situation analysis of childhood epilepsy in Cameroon. During my one year of paediatric neurology fellowship at the University Hospital Centre of Bicêtre, I got interested in the dietary therapies for epilepsy and I carried out a research work on the treatment of childhood refractory epilepsy with ketogenic diet in the service, with the idea of implementing dietary therapies for epilepsy back home. This therapeutic option is still inexistent in Cameroon in particular and in most countries of Francophone Africa in general. I have also been in charge of the research department of my hospital which aims to promote and organize research at the hospital level.

I am an active member of the Cameroonian League against Epilepsy. As such, I have taken part in a national project on the global care of patients with epilepsy, implemented in 7 pilot districts, from

2015 to 2017 and I regularly participate in local activities such as conferences and global sensitization. I was elected Secretary General of the Cameroonian League in 2019. I am also a member of the International Child Neurology Association and the French Society of Paediatric Neurology.

I will be very glad and extremely grateful to be given the chance to take part in the ILAE-AFRICA committee. Bringing my dynamism and my enthusiasm, and considering my position in the care of children with epilepsy in my country, I will work with the members of the committee to raise awareness against epilepsy and advocate for better access to epilepsy care. I will also work to promote ILAE activities through the continent, especially in francophone Africa. This wonderful experience will help me leverage my leadership and communication skills, and deepen my participation in the ILAE at regional and international levels. Finally, I hope to network and exchange experiences with colleagues from all over the world, and create possible collaborations for research and training.

Dominique ENYAMA

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