

## Statement

International League against epilepsy has done enormous effort towards the facilitation and improvement of the care for epilepsy patients worldwide. This was shown with the tremendous efforts to work alongside with the regions and chapters to achieve these goals.

It's also, very evident the amount of work, dedication and achievements among ILAE regions through the chairs of each region with their respective chapters. Unfortunately, EMR region lags behind. Although there are defined strategies and plans but, no implementations for major parts of the work for epilepsy patients in the region.

If elected to the EMR chair, my focus will be on the following:

1. **To build on what was initiated by previous chair**, Dr Chahnez Triki and board members and have measures to improve them.
2. **Increase the collaboration between chapters in the region**: there are several activities tailored to improve the services and awareness among chapters. Many other individualized efforts are done in the region. However, the collaboration is somehow being minimal or not to the extent seen in other regions of ILAE. I believe, it's important to study the reasons behind this issue and plan strategies to rectify them.
3. **Regional guidelines**: To develop regional guidelines for epilepsy patients with the help of ILAE. Issues related to driving, type of jobs, stigma ....etc. are important aspects and are lacking protocols in the region.
4. **Education**: To ensure having adequate teaching activities for the region to increase the awareness regarding epilepsy. I believe, it's important to continue with existing monthly webinars following positive feedbacks. Its, also essential to coordinate with other chapters in the region to have structured meetings with defined objectives in collaboration with the ILAE-EMR executive committee. This will allow to have various topics covered at different times of the year. I also believe, that having educational materials and or videos in Arabic would be helpful for the neurologist and other general physicians for better communication and explanation to patients. Many patients lack the knowledge about epilepsy and it's our role to help physicians to provide the knowledge needed in a very simple way.
5. **Research**: research in the field of epilepsy is limited in the region; it's essential to develop strategies to have it improved in our region and have multi-center studies. To give the opportunity for researches in the region to present their research. This can be through monthly webinars, in order to have neurologist in the region be aware of epilepsy issues in the region and identify areas for future research.
6. **EEG website**: to ensure the availability of electroencephalography experts in the region to help chapters not having expertise in reading EEG. This can be achieved by the

excellent work done by Sfax Medical school in collaboration with ILAE. The aim is to spread this service to all chapters in the region.

7. **Fellowship programs**: to encourage young neurologists to choose the field of epilepsy as one of the important specialties in epilepsy. This can be done by dedicated educational activities for young neurologists.

During my period as member in the ILAE-EMR executive committee, I have had a broad knowledge about and some of its deficiencies. I believe some of these issues can be rectified with better organization and cooperation with chapters in the region. I would be grateful and honored to serve the region and be able to help in improving the service for epilepsy patients

Fatema Abdulla