

Dear President and Officers of the ILAE Chapter,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I feel honored to be nominated to serve in the Executive Committee of ILAE in 2017-2021. The accomplishments of the League for more than 100 years are tremendous; the outstanding role of the ILAE as the leading multidisciplinary and multinational society of physicians and health professionals in all domains of epilepsy is well recognized.

Our President-Elect, Professor Sam Wiebe, postulated five priority areas for the next term: Improving Access to Care, Knowledge Creation, Knowledge Translation and Education, Financial sustainability and growth, Expanding boundaries. I believe I can contribute meaningfully to the implementation of these goals on the background of my professional expertise and experience gained while serving for 3 terms in the Commission of European affairs (as a CEA Secretary and Chair of the European Advisory Council) and chairing the Global Outreach Task Force. I have worked extensively over 15 years in bringing epileptology to the less privileged regions of Europe by teaching courses arranged by the ILAE CEA, and believe that these have been very successful. I have been privileged to be a part of the team working on the 68th Resolution of the World Health Assembly, which urges Member States to implement a coordinated action to address the health, social and public knowledge implications of epilepsy. The Resolution provides ILAE chapters with a powerful tool to engage governments into taking concrete action to improve epilepsy care, promote public awareness and allocate resources to epilepsy research. **Following to the great success of the Resolution**, we need to strive forward to ensure that the Resolution translates into effective actions, in particular:

- It is essential **to continue and expand the key partnerships between the WHO, ILAE and IBE**, that was the prerequisite of the Resolution success.
- We need to build up on the global support of the Resolution and **to engage the countries**, which already expressed their commitment, to make the financial, human and other resources available for the improvement access to care , reducing stigma and increase funding for epilepsy research.
- It is important to **strengthen the collaboration** with the WFN, EAN and other professional organizations in neurology, psychiatry, pediatrics, that will contribute to the improvement of care and raising awareness about epilepsy
- There is a need for the appropriate assessment of **magnitude of the medical, social and economic burden of epilepsy to keep and further expand its role on the global agenda.**

Following to the strategy outlined by the President-elect, I will, if elected, **address the treatment gap, promote epilepsy care and research, foster the education and continue advocacy initiatives for people with epilepsy**; I would work to divert more of ILAEs resources to education and outreach. I think it is essential to develop and strengthen **solid international collaborations in education and research, enrich the teamwork with greater participation of all the ILAE Chapters**, identifying priorities and needs and implementing successful initiatives.

I came from a country situated geographically in Europe and in Asia with many regions quite different in their ethnic, cultural, economic, historical background. I have been very much involved in the Programs for development of epilepsy care, managing with a range (from quite appropriate to very limited) medical and financial resources available for epilepsy care.

My commitment to the ILAE is long standing; I sincerely thank all the ILAE chapters that nominated me and I am inspired to work towards the world where no person's life is limited by epilepsy.

*Respectfully Yours,*



Alla Guekht