

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my absolute privilege and honour to be nominated as a candidate for the election of the next Chair of the North American Commission of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). My work on ILAE commissions and task forces, along with my work with ILAE chapters (Canadian League Against Epilepsy and American Epilepsy Society) represent some of the most gratifying and humbling experiences in my academic career. Through these experiences I have seen international colleagues come together in a collaborative fashion to improve the lives of persons living with epilepsy by promoting education, clinical care and research, and advocacy.

Dr. Samuel Wiebe, our ILAE President-Elect, has highlighted key areas of priorities for the ILAE: Improving access to care, knowledge translation and education, financial sustainability and growth, and expanding boundaries. I believe that my experience on the North American Commission (two terms), my ILAE leadership roles (e.g. Immediate Past President of the CLAE, Chair of Guidelines Committee, Chair of Stigma Task Force), my expertise in health services research and knowledge translation and my teaching experience provide me with the necessary skills to really contribute significantly to these important priorities.

I have also been privileged to work with members from various organizations nationally and internationally (e.g. Canadian Epilepsy Alliance, International Bureau for Epilepsy, World Health Organization) to improve the lives of those with epilepsy through advocacy, clinical care tools, education and research. Enhancing collaborations with partner organizations is key to ensure that we fill the knowledge and treatment gap when it comes to epilepsy care globally.

If I were elected chair of the North American Commission (NAC), I would work with our NAC members and chapters to ensure that our commission contributes to the key ILAE priorities. I would also continue to support successful NAC activities such as but not limited to:

- The Leadership Development Course offered at the International Epilepsy Congress
- Our collaborative educational activities with other chapters and commissions globally
- The development of innovative approaches to close the knowledge to action gap and our commitment to ensure that such innovative tools are adapted to the local context to ensure their successful integration into clinical care and practice
- Our interdisciplinary work to improve access to care and reduce the treatment gap not only in North America and in the Caribbean but in other regions of the world also through collaborative education, research and advocacy.
- Our commission's involvement in harmonizing regulatory activities with other regions
- Our work on stigma in epilepsy and related outcomes

I thank you in advance for considering my nomination. I realize that I will have big shoes to fill if I am elected as Chair of the North American Commission. However, I would be committed to continue to work collaboratively with all of my colleagues internationally, with our incoming President Dr. Samuel Wiebe and with the ILAE Management Committee to improve the lives of persons living with epilepsy, their families and their caregivers.



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