

Dear Friends and colleagues;

I became acquainted with the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) activities, in 2005, during a meeting in Washington, DC, where I was an American Epilepsy Society (AES) International Scholars awardee. On my return home, I was inspired to set up a local chapter in Uganda, the Epilepsy Society Uganda (EPISOU), whose vision is to work towards a Uganda where “no person’s life is limited by epilepsy”. EPISOU, in collaboration with the local International Bureau of Epilepsy (IBE) Uganda chapter, have held joint educational meetings to raise epilepsy awareness and inform the public on its care; held media conferences and talk shows, and conducted epilepsy outreach clinics.

For the past seven years I have served in a variety of roles with the ILAE, including: member of the task force created to develop guidelines for neonatal seizures, a joint collaboration with the World Health Organization and ILAE (2008-2009); member of the Educational commission task force (2009-2012); member of the task force to review the operational definition of epilepsy (2013); and member of the task force on seizures and epilepsies in the tropics (2014-2017). Furthermore, in November 2010 in Dakar, Senegal, I was instrumental in contributing to the setting up of the first Commission on African Affairs (CAA) of the ILAE during which I served as Treasurer (2010-2013) and was re-elected for another term (2014-2017). This experience has enabled me demonstrate my ability as a firm and committed leader, helped me to understand the ILAE system as regards budgetary, monitoring and management issues of allocated CAA funds and enlightened me on the critical role the League has accomplished together with its partners in improving the lives of people with epilepsy (PWE). In addition, by harnessing on the important successes the League has achieved over the years, my interest in making epilepsy a health care priority not only in Africa but throughout the world, has been further enhanced.

When elected as a member of the management committee of the ILAE, I will bring on board the over 20 years’ diverse and rich experience I have gained in the course of my clinical work, research and academic training, plus the service on these various committees that have greatly expanded my knowledge regarding the plight of people with epilepsy (PWE). I also bring a unique perspective from exposure to the health systems in countries in the developed world and developing world. My goal would be to ensure that the President elect’s key priority areas are upheld, and in pursuing this goal my specific concerns would be to:

1. Ensure that the ILAE’s role as a leader for optimal and comprehensive epilepsy care is maintained through advocacy and support of the existing activities carried out in liaison with concerned stakeholders, national chapters, regional commissions, the IBE, local organizations and parents. This will guarantee the League’s prominence and priority to attract funding.
2. Promote epilepsy awareness at all levels but especially the primary care level, through fostering programs that utilise innovative, cost effective, improved communications that are acceptable and accessible.
3. Address the visible and invisible barriers that hinder PWE from accessing the best possible sustainable care, through understanding the issues from the local perspective and offering support of the evidence based, culturally appropriate and viable options.
4. Develop the human and research capacity in epilepsy care through nurturing partnerships of multi-site epilepsy projects and creating more collaborative links with lead investigators from the developed world that are directed towards the enhancement of the practice and career development of professionals involved in epilepsy care.

I believe that this shared vision and shared responsibility will contribute to a world in which no person’s life is limited by epilepsy. I ask for your support to have the privilege of serving as a member of the next ILAE management committee.

Yours sincerely,



Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige