

Vision statement

I seek to strengthen the ILAE by training mentoring and helping the next generation of leaders across the globe. We seek to transform the organization by training a generation of effective, collaborative, cooperative visionary leaders. I would do this by growing and strengthening the ILAE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE. To achieve its mission, the ILAE needs strong leaders that can grow chapters that engage members; lead global, national and local advocacy efforts; advance research agendas and clinical care for epilepsy patients and recruit young talent to the field. The skills required of these leaders are rarely addressed in graduate and medical training programs. With this training gap in mind, Sheryl Haut, Tina Budnitz and I designed and implemented the ILAE leadership development course. We defined the educational goals, promoted the program and selected the most appropriate rising leaders and then trained them in core leadership skills. The participants rated the course highly. The course is being expanded and offered again in 2017. The expansion includes increasing class size and expanding the offerings, with a goal to develop a mentoring program to dovetail with course work. More than 90 applications were received and 30 applicants were selected.

Our future goal is to continue the leadership education through a mentoring program. The process for setting up the mentoring program has already begun and we will work with other regional commission leaders to set up a year round process of cultivating future leaders. In addition, we hope to expand the course so that it is available at regional meetings.

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