

ILAE Executive Committee Nominees

Emilio Perucca Personal Statement

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Dear Colleagues

I thank all ILAE chapters that nominated me for re-election to the ILAE Executive Board. This note briefly outlines my biography and my vision for the future of ILAE.

I obtained a medical degree and a specialization in neurology at the University of Pavia, Italy, and a PhD in clinical pharmacology at the University of London. Currently, I am professor of pharmacology at the University of Pavia. For the past two decades, I contributed to the ILAE by serving in various Commissions (Outcome assessment, European Affairs and Therapeutic Strategies) and, currently, as First Vice-President. I deeply believe that the ILAE can have a crucial role in pursuing our goal of a world where no person's life will be limited by the consequences of having epilepsy. The following are areas in which I feel we should especially concentrate:

Expand services to member chapters and individuals. Improved communication with chapters is essential in determining which specific services should be provided. We also need to enhance the operational capabilities of ILAE regions. The proposed constitutional amendment, which I contributed to draft, will go in this direction by including the elected Regional Commissions chairs in the ILAE Executive.

Foster initiatives in education, training and research. During the current term, I was given the task of organizing the Faculty of 1,000, a web-based database of the many colleagues who contribute to ILAE's educational agenda. Improving knowledge and training programs should be a primary goal of ILAE. Efforts should be stepped up to identify and mentor the next generation of ILAE leaders, and involve them in Commissions and Task Forces. ILAE should also liaise with funding organizations to ensure that epilepsy becomes a priority for future research.

Improve epilepsy care in the world regardless of resources. The ILAE does not have the resources to conduct large programs alone, but it is ideally placed to stimulate and coordinate contributions from many organizations active in income-restricted countries. One example is the recent signing of a partnership agreement between ILAE and BasicNeeds, a non-governmental organization, to develop a program to reduce the treatment gap in Ghana. These initiatives can be expanded, taking advantage of our special relationship with IBE and WHO.

Modernization of the organization and financial structure of ILAE. Accomplishing our ambitious goals in education and epilepsy care programs will require considerable efforts and resources. The ILAE should optimize its organizational structure and diversify its sources of income, liaising with chapters and other partners to develop projects for which funding can be sought from a variety of sources.

During the last four years, I had the privilege of working in close association with Nico Moshé, our President-Elect. I know that we share a common vision on many of these objectives. I am also aware that there are many motivated colleagues worldwide who are eager to contribute to these programs. By working together, a lot can be achieved.