

Dear all,

I confirm my candidacy as a member of the Commission of African Affairs for the 2017-2021 term of the International League Against Epilepsy.

I got interested in epilepsy while I was medical student. This motivated me to carry out a study on the prevalence of epilepsies in rural areas as my MD thesis. Then, at the end of my specialization, my dissertation of focused KAP study on epilepsy in a rural setting. Very quickly, I understood the gap and the difficulties in the management of the epilepsies in our environment. It is for this reason that I did not hesitate to do a sub-specialization in clinical epileptology and clinical neurophysiology option EEG, in order to improve the management of epilepsy in my country.

I have been involved in national activities of sensitization, information and education of the population in order to de-dramatize the disease and reduce treatment gap. We continue to work to make access to care easier for people living with epilepsy in Cameroon.

Apart from the clinical experience acquired in the diagnosis and follow-up of more than 1000 patients, I have a strong field activity where my expertise in the Cameroon-Jura-Switzerland project makes the management of epilepsy at the primary level a considerable success.

I participated for the first time in the activities of the CAA at the 29th International Congress held in Rome in 2011 where I began gradually to imbibe the objectives and the overall policy of the ILAE and its expectations vis-a-vis the local leagues.

Africa remains the most affected region by epilepsy and unfortunately, people living with epilepsy in this part of the world are stigmatized. Hence they live painfully with this disease. Access to care remains difficult for many patients partly due to negative biases, but also to difficulties in communication channels, treatment costs, availability of antiepileptic drugs, and availability of skilled human resources for better support.

If elected to the committee, I would work with our newly elected chairperson of the African Commission. I will use my clinical and public health expertise to the promotion of PWE health. I will focus on the ideas of the elected president to enable other African countries to better organize optimal management of epilepsy by involving the public authorities, doctors whether specialist or not in epileptology, paramedics and patients themselves through associations and dedicated groups. My priority will be to take part in training staff in order to improve the management of epilepsy. I will also set up community actions for the benefit of patients and their families and ensure that the links between the ILAE and the African leagues are further strengthened.

I will share my experience with other African countries in organizing epilepsy management at the primary health care level by assigning tasks to paramedics, including diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of PWE.

Yours, Sincerely.



Dr Victor SINI