

Dear Colleagues of ILAE,

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate in the election of Executive Committee (Management Committee) of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). In Japan, I served as a President of Japan Epilepsy Society from 2005 to 2009. Since becoming the First Vice President (2009-2013) of ILAE, I have been involved actively in national and international activities. Especially, I was given the task to chair the Constitution Task Force. Over two years, the task force and other Executive Committee members devoted tremendous efforts to amend the old ILAE Constitution and By-Laws. Amendment of the Constitution was ratified at the General Assembly at the 29th International Epilepsy Congress in Rome, 2011. There are a number of changes to the Constitution, but the most important change that is relevant to the upcoming election is the direct election of the Chair of Regional Commission by member chapters of each region. The elected Regional Chair will now be a member of the Executive Committee. Direct election of Regional Chairs will also end the current practice of the Executive Committee in appointing chairs of the regional commissions. This key change should improve communications not only between the leadership of the League and the regions but also across regions, for the benefit of the ILAE as an international constituency.

I started to develop an international perspective during my training in epileptology in 1973 under Professor Robert Naquet in Paris, when I studied basic research using techniques such as kindling and kainic acid-induced seizures. My international experience continued under Professor Andre Olivier at the Montreal Neurological Institute, where I acquired clinical experience in epilepsy surgery. My basic research background has been extremely important to my understanding of the pathophysiology of epilepsy, and I have applied what I learned about central neuronal networks to the development of therapeutic strategies for my patients. For this reason, I strongly support the emphasis that the ILAE has placed on translational research to move laboratory research findings to clinical practice.

For the next four years and beyond, I believe it is our mission to continue and further enhance collaborative international education, training, and research to improve the quality of life for all the people with epilepsy regardless of gender, age, geographic location, and economic status. One of the great challenges and opportunities will be the training of new epileptologists in underserved areas. Our experience with the JES scholarship system may provide a model for meeting this challenge. The international epilepsy community faces other challenges. Stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to exist in many places of the world. Educational campaigns based on a strong collaboration between ILAE and IBE are necessary to break down the barriers faced by the people with epilepsy. Another remaining challenge is the significant regional disparity that persists in epilepsy care despite the 100-year history of ILAE. According to the Report of the United Nations (2009), the world population exceeds 6.8 billion. The distribution of population in the continents is as follows: 60.8% in Asia-Oceania, 14.8% in Africa, 10.7% in Europe, 8.5% in Latin America and Caribbean, and 5.1% in North America. The report illustrates the need to focus efforts on developing countries in Asia-Oceania, Africa and Latin America. ILAE is addressing this need. Through the efforts of President Solomon Moshe, the First African Epilepsy Congress, the first ILAE-IBE conference to take place in the African Continent, is scheduled to be held in 2012. Bridging the geographic gap by devoting efforts to developing countries would be one of my top priorities. Finally, dissemination of ILAE information about epilepsy is an urgent mission. There are many countries in the world which cannot afford access to journals or participation in international congresses. The ILAE website is being developed to expand the information that can be viewed by all. Further development of this approach can serve to supply important information to many underserved areas.

If elected as a member of Executive Committee (Secretary General, Treasurer or Vice-president), I would devote all my efforts to the people with epilepsy, to the caregivers of people with epilepsy, and to the professionals treating and caring for people with epilepsy. Again, I am greatly honored by this nomination that I have received. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to help the League achieve its important goals.

Yours sincerely,

Tatsuya Tanaka
Professor Emeritus, Asahikawa Medical School
Honorary Director, Yamabiko Medical Welfare Center



CURRICULUM VITAE



Tatsuya TANAKA, M.D., D.M.Sc.,

Date of Birth: July 25, 1943. Place: Kagoshima, JAPAN. (Married, two daughters)

EDUCATION: M.D. Kyushu University, 1969,
Doctor of Medical Sciences (D.M.Sc.), Kyushu University, 1976
Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery,
Asahikawa Medical College, 1997-2009
Professor Emeritus, Asahikawa Medical College, 2009-
Honorary Director, Yamabiko Medical Welfare Center, 2009-
Specialist of Neurosurgery, 1977-, Specialist of Neurology, 1991-
Specialist of Clinical Epileptology, 1999-, Specialist of Clinical EEG, 2004-

EXPERIENCES: Research Fellow:1973-1975 and 1980-1981, (Dr, Robert NAQUET)
Department of Neurophysiology, C.N.R.S., Gif-sur-Yvette, FRANCE
Resident: 1987-1988 (Professor Andre OLIVIER)
Department of Neurosurgery, Montreal Neurological Institute, Montreal

AWARD: J. A. WADA Prize of the Japan Epilepsy Society, 1983
ILAE Outstanding Achievement Epilepsy Award of CAO, 2010
Outstanding Achievement Epilepsy Award, Japan Epilepsy Society, 2011

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

President of Japan Epilepsy Society (2005-2009)
President of Hokkaido Epilepsy Society (1988-2009)
The 1st Vice-President of ILAE (2009-2013)
ILAE Liaison Officer, CAO (2009-)
Member, International Brain Research Organization
Member, American Epilepsy Society
Member, Executive Committee, Japan Epilepsy Surgery Society
Member, Executive Committee, Japan Neurosurgical Society
Member, Executive Committee, Japan Clinical Neurophysiology Society
Member, Executive Committee, Japan Stereotactic & Functional Neurosurgery

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS:

- 1) Tanaka T, Naquet R: Kindling effect and sleep organization in cats.
Electroencephalogr Clin Neurophysiol, 39:449-454, 1975
- 2) Tanaka T, Tanaka S, Fujita T, Takano K, Fukuda H, Sako K, Yonemasu Y: Experimental complex partial seizures induced by a microinjection of kainic acid into limbic structures. Prog. in Neurobiol.,38:317-334,1992
- 3) Takebayashi S, Hashizume K, Tanaka T, Hodozuka A: The effect of electrical stimulation and lesioning of the anterior thalamic nucleus on kainic acid-induced focal cortical seizure status in rats. Epilepsia, 48 : 348-358, 2007

(More than 250 publications in English, French and Japanese related to basic and clinical epileptology)