

Election statement - Timothy Welty

2021

Epilepsy is a chronic medical disorder that knows no borders. In fact, as noted in the recent WHO report on epilepsy being a public health imperative, there is a disproportionate incidence and prevalence of epilepsy in low and low-middle income countries. In contrast, the major advances in caring for patients with epilepsy have predominantly occurred in high income countries. There is a need to strike a balance between extending access to epilepsy care to individuals in low and low-middle income countries while not curtailing the important improvements in epilepsy care that occur in high income countries. North America provides some unique challenges in this respect with some of the richest and poorest nations located in this region. Service on the ILAE-North American Committee allows the opportunity to consider how ILAE-North America can study, evaluate, and address these needs. It also enables collaboration between countries in the region to share knowledge and resources in addressing the needs of individuals with epilepsy.