

**Dear Friends and Colleagues!**

It is my pleasure and great honour to be nominated to stand as a candidate for one of the four elected officers of the Commission on European Affairs.

If I receive enough support to be elected, I will continue to serve our common goals, stand up for epilepsy patient care and research. My personal priorities for the program of work for the next four years for the CEA are the following:

**1) Education:**

In the past for years I had the opportunity to restructure together with the current CEA-team-members the educational agenda of the CEA. I am personally convinced that education is the key to improvement in health care for epilepsy patients and also in future development of research in Europe. To invest money in education means sustained investment in human resources. The establishment of basic epilepsy courses and special training courses, like the Caucasian Summer Schools on Epilepsy 2008 to 2012, the EILAT International Courses on Pharmacological Treatment of Epilepsy and the Migrating Courses on Clinical Epileptology since 2007, as well as focused courses on stereo – EEG and epilepsy surgery (EPODES) have been very successful, both in terms of efficient allocation of resources and educational outcomes. I will continue to support educational activities, based on a coordinated effort to fulfil the need of the chapters and regions.

**2) European Research Priorities and Advocacy**

It has been a major achievement of ILAE and the CEA to reach high priority status of epilepsy research within the European Union Research Organisation for the first time in history. This has been possible due to a co-ordinated effort of people and members of the CEA, IBE, EREC, and the ILAE. This has been a step in the right direction and has to be further continued by all members of the CEA in the next term. I will give highest priority to the support of all research activities within the strategic goal to understand better the pathophysiology of epilepsies and improve the treatment for patients with epilepsy.

**3) European Congress on Epileptology**

European congresses on Epileptology are outstanding in what they have achieved in terms of scientific content and educational activities.

This was due to the enormous and excellent work of outstanding individuals in the Commission on European Affairs, the ILAE and the European Epilepsy Community. If elected I will continue to support all organisational aspects of the European Congresses, as well as contribute to their scientific quality and success.

Europe with its 44 nations and chapters contributed enormously to the development of epileptology in the past centuries. The complexity of its political structures and social systems, however, contributes to a treatment gap within countries of the European region. If elected, I will commit time and efforts to fulfilling the goals of the strategic agenda and improve healthcare, science and social disparities under which patients with epilepsy have to suffer. If elected I will continue to work together with all CEA members and the representatives of the European chapters to fulfil the ILAE and CEA mission over the next years.