

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Dear Executives of the ILAE European Chapter,

It is my pleasure and great honour to be a candidate for the upcoming 2017 election for the position of the Chair for the Commission on European Affairs (CAE) of the International League of Epilepsy (ILAE). If I receive enough support from you to be elected, I will continue to serve our common goals, stand up for epilepsy patient care and research. The European region with its established health care pathways and research funding organisations undergo fundamental changes. Due to the increasing demands and limited resources, which are provided by the member states of the European Union and other states in the European WHO region. Within the European region we face enormous challenges in harmonizing health care and providing better treatments for all patients, including those, who live in resource poor countries of the European WHO – region. While enormous progress has been achieved in collaborative work, within the European Reference Network initiative and research programs within the European Union, other countries of Europe were not able to participate of those benefits adequately. My priorities for the program of work for the next four years if I am elected as a Chair of the Commission on European Affairs encompass three domains:

1: European collaborative research priorities and advocacy:

Only together we are strong. In the past major achievements of the International League and the CEA have been realized by working together with the European Union and the WHO to set priorities for epilepsy on the health care agency and in research. This has only been possible due to a coordinated effort of people and members of the CEA, IBE, EREC and the ILAE. The next step is to open up these initiatives also to countries outside of the European Union. I firmly believe, that our mission can only be achieved, if we work together, joining all forces at the European level to have a strong advocacy group for epilepsy. As a chair I will stand for an open dialog with all participants and stakeholders in the same way. I will also devote my time and energy to create a financially sustainable basis for our collaborative work to set research priorities for better understanding the pathophysiology of epilepsies and improve the treatment for patients with epilepsy in Europe.

2. European Congress of Epileptology:

The European Congresses on Epileptology are outstanding in what they have achieved in terms of scientific content, educational activities, and collaborative efforts. It was due to the enormous and excellent work of outstanding individuals in the CEA, the ILAE, and the European epilepsy community. If elected, I will continue to fulfil these high standards and strive to find new ways in terms of educational content and fundraising. The European congresses are the main source of

income for the Commission on European Affairs and therefore play a key role for our strategic planning to fulfil our mission.

3. Educational Agenda:

For the past eight years (2009-2017) I had the opportunity to restructure the educational agenda of the CEA. I am personally convinced, that education is one of the key elements to improve healthcare for epilepsy patient and to facilitate development of collaborative research in Europe. To invest money in education means sustained investment in human resources. The successful courses on epilepsy surgery (EPODES and Stereo-EEG course) are a blueprint model, how diffusion of knowledge and implementation in health care systems can be achieved most effectively. For the future we have to better interact with other societies and organisations providing education and implementing new didactic methods, but also appreciating well established courses and other educational activities. As a working group member for the dialog with the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) I had the pleasure to collaborate with the educational teams of the EAN in order to better coordinate our educational activities. I will continue to support educational activities, based on a coordinated effort to fulfil the need of the chapters and regions.

Europe with its 46 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. In the past eight years I have gained experience in two terms as a treasurer of the Commission on European Affairs. Now I aim to move forward and lead the CEA as a Chair, to create together with the members of the CEA new initiatives and work on the agenda, to foster European collaborative Networks, research and education over the next years.

Therefore, I kindly ask for your support and voting for me as a Chair of the Commission on European Affairs for the term 2017 to 2021.

With many thanks and best regards



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