



March 17, 2021

## ELECTION STATEMENT

Dear Colleagues,

It would be a great honor for me to be elected as a member of the Commission on European Affairs (CEA) of the ILAE for the 2021-25 term.

Over the last 15 years, I have served the epilepsy community as a member of the Greek ILAE chapter yet this is the first time that I participate in an election of the Commission of European Affairs. In the event of my election to the CEA, I will be committed to pursue the following specific objectives and goals.

**-Bridging the Treatment Gap.** Epilepsy care across Europe is characterized by significant heterogeneity in terms of the available epileptological expertise, quality of provided care and epilepsy-related policies. Advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services, in particular, are currently concentrated at a restricted number of select sites resulting in a source of inequality in the management of epilepsy amongst member states. In order to mitigate currently existing inequalities, it is imperative to promote multi-national collaborative actions and transfer of knowledge from expert centers across Europe so as to harmonize and optimize epilepsy-related practices.

**-Promoting Research networking.** Supporting and promoting epilepsy research is regarded as a top priority for ILAE both globally and regionally. On the basis of my experience as a member of the European Network for Epilepsy Research (ENER), I strongly believe that in order to accomplish this ambitious goal, we need to pursue, in parallel, the following paths. First, to foster collaboration amongst European academics and research institutions and second to co-operate with health research agencies to leverage funding for epilepsy-related research initiatives.

**-Advancing Awareness and Education.** It is crucial to take action, under the auspices of the CEA, in order to disseminate state-of-the art knowledge about important aspects of epileptology. Our educational strategy will employ all available means including e-based basic and advanced courses as well as fellowship programmes, bursary schemes and travelling grants. In this endeavor, we should aim for the widest possible geographical coverage of our activities.

Clearly, these are important objectives for the Epilepsy community at large. I am hopeful that with your support we will be able to work together and move a step closer to the direction of our common goals.

Sincerely yours,

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