

Dear Executives of the ILAE European Chapters,

It is a great privilege to be a candidate for the Commission on European Affairs (CEA) elections and I would be honoured to serve a second term on the CEA. If elected, I would continue to serve the European Chapters to promote education, research and advocacy within Europe in order to improve the care of people with epilepsy. During my first term as Secretary of the CEA, The European Congress has gone from strength to strength, combining the presentation of high quality research with a broad educational remit. Despite limited budgets, the CEA has also actively supported more focused European meetings and meetings in resource poor regions of the European Area.

However, the CEA must not only continue to serve the expanding European epilepsy community, but also improve its response to the needs of the European chapters. Stimulating epilepsy education throughout Europe is a pivotal role, in particular, to encourage the very best younger physicians and scientists to join our epilepsy community. This will come not only from meetings, especially aimed at early career physicians and scientists, but also from mentoring and exchanges in Europe. Moreover, a bottom-up, grassroots approach to education is undoubtedly needed, so that the CEA educational programmes can better represent the needs of the European chapters. Lastly the continued availability of bursaries so that all will have the opportunity to share in these educational programmes must be a priority.

Closer collaboration of the International League with other charitable organisations in Europe, such as the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) will become increasingly important to secure and lobby for funding for research, and to improve patient care. The establishment of a European Reference Network and the success of European Researchers to gain European funding have been critical but it is incumbent on the CEA that such success is shared across all the European Chapters through collaborative networks.

I am ideally placed to continue to contribute to the CEA, to foster the educational programmes and to lobby on behalf of the epilepsy community. I am Head of the Department for Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy at UCL Institute of Neurology and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, one of the most clinically and research active units worldwide. I am both an active physician and scientist specialising in epilepsy care and research. I am committed to translational research and served on the Commission on Neurobiology of Disease of ILAE, the Task Force on Translational Research of ILAE, and the Working Group on Recommendations For Preclinical Epilepsy Drug Discovery, and the Surgical Task Force, ILAE Commission on Therapeutics. I not only play an active role in education within University College London, but also in UK (organising educational meetings) and globally through talks and seminars. I am an associate editor of Brain, and have published extensively on both clinical and translational epilepsy research.

The European chapters have made an outstanding contribution to epilepsy and to the ILAE's mission. There are many challenges that face epilepsy care and research in Europe, but we are ideally placed to overcome these not least because of the diverse nature, energy and expertise of the people involved. A primary aim of the CEA must be to make the best of these resources and to promote excellence in epilepsy care and research throughout Europe. If re-elected, I will aim to foster these strengths, to continue these legacies and to continue to strengthen and develop the role of the CEA.

Yours faithfully,



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