

Motivation letter for the election of the Regional ILAE-Europe Committee members, 2025-2029



To the Executive Board Members of the ILAE European Chapter.

Dear friends and colleagues,

By this, I would like to inform you that I am willing to run for the election for the board of ILAE-Europe for the next term, as a candidate from the Danish ILAE-chapter.

I am a neurologist, clinical neurophysiologist, and Professor of Translational Epileptology at the Danish Epilepsy Centre / University of Southern Denmark in Dianalund, Denmark. My commitment to epilepsy began 25 years ago during my residency in Italy. Since then, I have devoted my clinical and research work to the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy, with a particular focus on complex forms, presurgical evaluations and personalized medicine / drug trial readiness for monogenic epilepsies.

For the past 10 years, I have served as a board-member of the Danish Epilepsy Chapter. Since 2023, I have also been a member of the ILAE Task Force on "Nosology and Definition." In line with ILAE's mission, I have worked to stimulate and coordinate epilepsy-related activities across Europe and worldwide.

Through **my previous and current roles**, I have contributed to various initiatives within ILAE-Europe, including:

- Networking:
Working with rare epilepsies, I developed large networking collaborations worldwide, especially in Europe through EpiCARE, with the Nordic associations (NorEpiNet) and creating dedicated disease specific consortia (e.g. the European *STXBP1* consortium - ESCO- of which I'm the co-founder and registry coordinator). This also include wide interprofessional collaboration promoting integrated translational research from biobanks to clinical applications.
- Educational:
Following the interest in didactic activities, in the past 10 years I acted as
 - Co-director and tutor of the Basic EEG Course of the Virtual Epilepsy Academy (VIREPA).
 - Tutor and faculty member of the Dianalund Summer School of EEG and Epilepsy (DSSEE), as well as of several other ILAE and EpiCARE-endorsed courses (Tagliacozzo, Gargnano, Girona, Bologna, Barcelona).
 - Speaker and session organizer at international conferences.
 - Chair of the non-surgical case discussions within EpiCARE.

- Support for young epileptologists:
Over the past 10 years, I have promoted scientific exchange and mentorship at the Danish Epilepsy Centre, hosting more than 45 international fellows — including residents, PhD, and postdoctoral researchers — for most of whom I served as primary mentor or co-mentor. I maintain strong ties with the Young Epilepsy Section (YES) of ILAE, where our PhD student (Sebastian Ortiz) currently serves as President.
- Patient advocacy collaborations:
My clinical and research work in monogenic epilepsies is built on close, productive collaborations with local and international patient advocacy groups.
- Scientific dissemination:
Every two years, I organize the Dianalund International Epilepsy Congress (DICE) and the SCN2A/SCN8A Family Gathering, both recognized as highly successful events for the dissemination of cutting-edge epilepsy research.

My vision inside ILAE EUROPE is to continue and improve such programs to expand the epilepsy knowledge and awareness, focusing on the following goals:

- Promote international and interprofessional collaboration among epilepsy experts across Europe to improve diagnosis, treatment, and research. I will encourage the creation of dedicated study groups for specific research calls, facilitating inclusive and merit-based collaborations and grant applications across different Chapters.
- Strengthen and expand educational initiatives endorsed by ILAE-Europe, continuing and intensifying my commitment to innovative educational approaches.
- Enhance patient-centered perspectives by supporting collaborations with patient advocacy groups across ILAE-Europe Chapters, highlighting the key role of the IBE.
- Empower the involvement of young epilepsy experts, working closely with YES-ILAE Europe. I will prioritize international exchange programs, enabling residents, PhD students, and postdoctoral fellows across Europe to gain experience in epilepsy centers abroad, ultimately advancing patient care.

I am committed to continuing my work to support the epilepsy community and would be honored and excited to contribute further as a member of the ILAE-Europe board.

Your support is much appreciated!

Warm regards

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