

I am honored to be considered for the ILAE North America Region membership 2025-29 term. I was born and raised in India, where I began my nursing career. I live and work in the United States, where I have advanced my clinical and academic training. I spend significant time in Kenya, leading an NIH-funded research project focusing on expanding access to epilepsy care in underserved communities.

During my clinical experiences at the F.E. Dreifuss Epilepsy Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, I developed an understanding and deep appreciation of the challenges faced by individuals living with epilepsy. My professional journey has been shaped by a commitment to health equity and a passion for improving the lives of people with epilepsy. As an Associate Professor at the Indiana University School of Nursing and a Fellow of both the American Academy of Nursing and the American Epilepsy Society, I have dedicated my career to addressing the epilepsy treatment gap through interdisciplinary, community-engaged research. I am also a certified global nurse consultant through the International Council of Nurses.

I currently serve as Principal Investigator for a five-year NIH R01 project aimed at bridging the treatment gap in Kenya. This work is directly aligned with the ILAE/WHO Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders. Through this study and other initiatives, I work towards strengthening health systems, training local providers, and developing culturally responsive care models.

ILAE's mission, a world where no person's life is limited by epilepsy, is of immense value to me. I have served as the vice chair of the inaugural ILAE nursing section and currently serve as its Treasurer. I am also a member of the Innovation Taskforce and previously served as the Secretary of the North American Region Global Health Task Force. These roles have allowed me to contribute to global epilepsy strategies, mentor emerging leaders, and advocate for the critical role of nurses in epilepsy care.

Cultural beliefs play an important role in shaping how epilepsy is understood and treated, even in regions like North America. These beliefs can contribute to stigma and impact individuals' willingness to seek medical care, ultimately affecting treatment access and outcomes. With lived experience across three continents, alongside my clinical expertise and leadership in research, I bring a truly global and nuanced perspective to epilepsy care.

Thank you for considering my candidacy as a member of the ILAE N. America region. I am excited about the opportunity to serve.