

Personal Statement:

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The first time I attended to a child with seizures as a 5th year medical student, I knew neurology was not just a subject – it was my future. That early sense of wonder has deepened over the years, shaped by academic study and a growing fascination with the human brain. The challenge of decoding the brain's electrical storms, combined with the hope of helping patients regain control of their lives, solidified my commitment to child neurology and epilepsy. After my paediatrics residency and fellowship training, I pursued subspecialty training in paediatric neurology and currently heads a busy child neurology unit in Ghana. I have spent over a decade committed to improving outcomes for people with epilepsy, particularly in resource-limited settings. My clinical and advocacy work has been driven by the persistent treatment gap across Africa, where more than 75% of individuals with epilepsy remain untreated. I have seen firsthand how stigma, limited access to neurologists, and systemic health inequities continue to hinder progress.

The epilepsy treatment gap in Africa is driven by multiple factors including limited access to neurologists and diagnostic tools, high cost or unavailability of antiseizure medications (ASM), stigma rooted in cultural beliefs, and inadequate public health infrastructure. As a result, many individuals with epilepsy face preventable morbidity, social exclusion, and diminished quality of life. Addressing this gap requires a strategic multifaceted approach that combines medical training, community education, and health system strengthening to ensure equitable access to care.

Over the years, I have worked with many organizations to improve care for children with epilepsy. As a member of the ILAE Access to Treatment/Generics Task Force, I am engaged in exploring innovative strategies to improve access to ASMs in low- and middle-income countries. Additionally, I work with the British Paediatric Neurology Association, leading the Paediatric Epilepsy Training courses in Ghana. At the regional and international levels, I have taught at the African Academy of Neurology regional training course, the ILAE Africa and Eastern Mediterranean webinars, and the International Child Neurology Teaching Network. Through my collaborative efforts, my hospital receives donations of ASMs from ROW Foundation, thereby increasing access for children and families who cannot afford out-of-pocket payments for the newer ASMs. Furthermore, I have worked with the Child Neurology Society (CNS) to establish a paediatric EEG lab in my hospital, serving the middle and northern belts of Ghana.

These initiatives, among others, contribute significantly towards bridging the epilepsy treatment gap. In recognition of my efforts, the CNS awarded me the Bernard D'Souza Award in 2017.

I currently serve on the executive committee of the Ghana Epilepsy Society, the local ILAE chapter. I am deeply honoured to be nominated for election to the ILAE-Africa Committee for the 2025-2029 term, to contribute at a regional level – advocating for sustainable solutions, supporting regional leadership, and helping to shape inclusive policies that bring effective epilepsy care within reach for all. This role aligns deeply with both my professional mission and personal conviction: that every person with epilepsy, regardless of geography or circumstance, deserves access to compassionate, evidence-based care. With years of clinical experience, a clear understanding of systemic challenges, and unwavering commitment to neurological equity, I am ready to serve and to help drive the transformation our field urgently needs.

Thank you.