

Statement for ILAE-Asian Oceania Election

It is a privilege to be considered for the ILAE-Asia Oceania Committee for the 2025-29. I hope I will get your kind support. I promise to serve ILAE and my region wholeheartedly. I will represent the interests and needs of all healthcare professionals who dedicated their life to serve the people with epilepsy even with limited resources.

In my work as an Adult Neurologist I specialize in the care of Epilepsy, striving to improve our understanding of underlying causes and consequently outcomes. I have a major research interest as well as service commitment. Poor diagnosis, lack of services, inappropriate EEG translation and inequality of care is apparent in the Asian Oceania region. Great achievements can be gained through joint working. There is a long history of working with the ILAE; it is important to continue not only this work, together in partnership with other ILAE chapters and international organization to promote epilepsy research, training, awareness building and education.

The ILAE-Asian Oceania is representing the largest proportion of the world's population. We have a very big responsibility to serve the needs of the region properly and on time. I have been involved with local ILAE chapter since 2003 and working as Secretary General at present. I got the opportunity to work with ASEPA and other sub committees of the ILAE since the beginning. I am also actively involved with IBE to help local organizations and regional bodies to develop awareness and ensure proper training in this filed.

Over the past years we have established Epilepsy monitoring system in our region and we helped to establish new chapters of ILAE in the AO region. Still we need consider the educational needs as well as research gaps that remain. We can only do this if we work together as a team in this region and with other region of ILAE. We need Continuing collaborative work with other International and National organizations. I feel always privileged and honoured to work with the team of the ILAE President and EC.

My priorities will be to ensure training for young doctors, nurses and other healthcare givers to ensure country wide treatment and service for the people with epilepsy. My dream always was to do joint translational research together with other countries of the region which will help us to find the solutions of the needs of our populations.

I need your support and cooperation to fulfil the dream of the millions in this region. Hope to get your vote.

Dr. Muzharul Mannan:

Dr. Muzharul Mannan is the Training Coordinator of Institute of Paediatric Neurodisorders and Autism (IPNA) in BSMMU and Consultant Neurologist at Department of Neurology in BSMMU. He was elected as the Secretary of Regional Executive committee of International Bureau of Epilepsy (IBE) for 2021-2025. He was also appointed as a Council Member of the Asia Pacific Stroke Organization for 2019-2021. Over the years, he has been involved with several organization and platforms which promote awareness on Neurodevelopmental disabilities and Mental Health, through dedication and hard work has established his credentials as a relentless and leading advocate for NDDs, Mental Health, Epilepsy and Stroke not only in Bangladesh but globally too. This is a brief look at his life and work so far.

EARLY LIFE

After completing his Bachelors in Medicine from Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest , Hungary, he obtained his diploma in Neurology from Institute of Neuroscience , London, UK. He obtained the specialized postgraduate qualification in Epilepsy and EEG from National Neuroscience Institute, Singapore. In 2003-2004 He worked at Singapore General Hospital as HSDP fellow and 2004-2005 at Queens Square Neurology Department, London, UK. He also worked as Head of Medical Services and Consultant Neurologist from 2006-2009 at Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in Bangladesh.

Apart from his demonstrated commitment to the well-being of person with different disabilities, since 2009, Mannan has also worked in several capacities related to the disability and Mental health related sector. Whatever the role, he has always strived to raise awareness on, and precipitate change in, policies, institutions, framework, public perception and attitude towards Mental Health and disability issues.

THE ADVOCATE

From 2009 onwards, he has working on a very specific area of disability: neurodevelopmental disorders and autism. For the fifteen (15) years he has been involved with *Global Autism Bangladesh*, a public health initiative by Autism Speaks USA on autism in Bangladesh.

Additionally, as Program Coordinator of the Global Autism Public Health Initiative, Bangladesh, from July 2011, he has helped Bangladesh government (in partnership with Autism Speaks, world's leading autism science and advocacy organization) launch a national campaign to raise awareness of autism spectrum disorders under the leadership of Saima Wazed Hossain as Chairperson.

As an advocate, he actively assisted in the creation of a national committee of experts, government officials and parents, conducted situation analysis documents, incorporated autism in the national development plan and national public health programmes. He was instrumental in creating the inter-ministerial committee on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). He also helped developed the *National Strategic and Convergent Action Plan on Autism and Developmental Disabilities* for 8 government ministries in 2012.

As a dedicated advocate for neurodevelopmental disorders, Mannan has been engaged in the following activities over the years under direct supervision and guidance of Saima Wazed Hossain: Networking with policy makers, assessment of special needs schools, networking and organizing round table meeting with local stakeholders to assess needs within the disability community, publication and presentation on autism issues to generate awareness, advocating for separate department for education psychology in Dhaka University, Involved to establish Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children (CNAC) in 2010 led by Prof Dr Shaheen Akhter, a paediatric neurologist at BSMMU which becomes the first-ever institute of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) called Institute of Paediatric Neurodisorder and Autism (*IPNA*), conducting training for specialized professionals and parents, launching a parent

-based organization (Parents Forum for Differently Able), and organizing seminars, conferences and workshops.

With the leadership of Saima he vocally advocated for a separate Department of Education and Counselling at Dhaka University (which was formally launched in December 2013) and successfully advocated for the adoption of the *Disability Act 2013* which contains significant components on mental health and autism. Further, he helped draft the *National Trust Act for Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disorders* which was passed in parliament in December 2013.

THE GLOBAL ADVOCATE

Mannan's work has never been constrained by geographical boundaries. He has been passionately advocating on the subject of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders from a global perspective. He was strongly involved with the drafting and helped in the adoption of UN Resolution 67/82 on Autism.

From 2012 to 2016, he worked as Rapporteur of the National Steering committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, National Advisory Committee on Autism and NDDs and Technical Guidance Committee comprised of both parents and experts.

Additionally, he has in the past, served as vice chairman of the regional executive committee of International Bureau for Epilepsy, Executive member of the Asia Pacific Stroke Organization, Member of the Autism Speaks Global Autism Advocacy Leadership Network.

HIGHLIGHTS & RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

In recent times, Mannan's pioneering work on neurodevelopmental disorders and autism has received recognition not only in the domestic arena but also on the international stage, including:

- WHO adopting resolution spearheaded by Saima W Hossain titled: "*Comprehensive and Coordinated Efforts for the Management of Autism Spectrum Disorders*" (May 2014);

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- Bangladesh Parliament enacting Bill titled "*National Trust Act for Persons with*

Neurodevelopmental Disorders” in December 2013;

- Representing Bangladesh at the Special High Level Event on Disabilities at the United Nations General Assembly, New York in September 2013;
- WHO Executive Board adopting resolution spearheaded by Saima titled: “*Comprehensive and Coordinated Efforts for the Management of Autism Spectrum Disorders*” in May 2013;
- UN Resolution “*Addressing the Socioeconomic Needs of Individuals, Families and Societies Affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders, Developmental Disorders and Associated Disabilities*” in March 2013;
- WHO SEARO countries unanimously adopting SEARO Resolution SEA/RC65/R8 “*Comprehensive and Coordinated Efforts for the Management of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities*” in September 2012;
- Helping to Drafting the *Dhaka Declaration on Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities*, which was unanimously adopted by all regional countries attending the conference in July 2011;
- Involving with Organizing and hosting the international conference “*Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities in South East Asia*” in July 2011 which was attended by experts and government representative from 11 countries;
- Launching the South Asian Autism Network (SAAN) in July 2011
- Involved with organizing the Three days “International Conference on Autism and Neuro- developmental Disorders” 19-21 April 2017 at the Royal Banquet Hall, Thimphu. This was jointly organized by Bangladesh, Bhutan and WHO.
- Helping to develop the National Strategic Plan for Neurodevelopmental Disorders 2016- 2021 for Bangladesh Government. Later extended the time frame till 2031.

- Recipient of the “Super Hero Autism Award” 2021 by Sunderji’s Global Academia, India as an individual who made a significant contribution to improving services and the quality of life for those individuals living on the autism spectrum.
- Recipient of the Asian and Oceanian Outstanding Achievement Epilepsy Award 2021 by International League against Epilepsy (ILAE) and International Bureau of Epilepsy (IBE) to recognise and pay tribute to medical or non-medical professionals for their extraordinary contributions to Epilepsy Care. It is their highest honour, and is given for the lifetime of the recipient.

Brief Bios of Dr. Muzharul Mannan

Dr. M Mannan born in 1970 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Studied at University Laboratory School and College, Dhaka and passed SSC and HSC from there. He went to Hungary with government scholarship to study Medicine at Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest. After graduation and internship from Semmelweis Medical University he returns Bangladesh in 1998 and started his postgraduate training in Bangladesh. He had his training in Internal Medicine and Neurology and also worked as a Neurologist for 5 years before got a fellowship in Epilepsy as a HSDP Fellow at National Neuroscience Institute, Singapore for 2003-2004. Dr. Mannan had done his Diploma in Clinical Neurology at National Institute of Neurology, Queens Square, London, UK in 2005. Worked as the Head of Medical Division and Consultant Neurologist at Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Dhaka Bangladesh from 2006-2009.

Dr. Mannan was also instrumental in establishing the first government funded center providing research and training on neurodevelopmental disorders at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka named Center for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children (CNAC). Join Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) as Consultant Neurologist at Department of Neurology and as Training Coordinator at Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children (CNAC) in 2009. CNAC became the Institute of Paediatric Neurodisorder and Autism (IPNA), BSMMU on 2015. He also helped in the formation of the Parent Forum for the Differently Able which has nearly 800 parent membership throughout Bangladesh and has become an effective self-advocacy group which conducts awareness, empowerment and parent-trainings

initiatives. He was the part of the organizing team of the largest and most high profile conference ever held for a mental health condition on July 25th 2011 in Dhaka Bangladesh to launch the Global Autism Public Health Initiative (GAPH I) and the South Asian Autism Network (SAAN). The conference brought together experts and government officials from 13 countries which unanimously ratified the Dhaka Declaration on Autism as well as dignitaries from the region including Mrs. Sonia Gandhi (President of the Indian National Congress), Mrs. Srirantha Rajyapaksa (First Lady of Sri Lanka), Mrs. Illham Hussain, (First Lady of Maldives) and Sheikh Hasina (Prime Minister of Bangladesh).

Through the Global Autism Initiative, Bangladesh is now an active member of UNICEF'S Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities (GPCwd), a forum which has renewed focus on the needs of mental health and developmental disabilities. He has spoken at numerous national and international conferences and panel discussions to promote the needs of those with autism spectrum disorders.

He has several scientific papers and associated with different research topics in Epilepsy, Stroke and Autism. At present he is the Secretary General of Bangladesh Epilepsy Foundation, Epilepsy Association of Bangladesh and the South East Asian Commission for Epilepsy of The International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE). He is also the Joint Scientific Secretary (International affairs) of the Society of Neurologist of Bangladesh. He is the founder member and Board of Trustees member of Shuchona Foundation. He is also working as the Managing Director and Senior Consultant Neurologist of Neurology Foundation Hospital, Dhaka since 1999. His contribution in the field of Autism and NDDs is well known nationally and internationally.

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