

**Piero Perucca, MD, PhD, FRACP, FAES**  
**Election Statement**

Dear ILAE Chapter Officers, Colleagues, and Friends of the Asian-Oceanian Region,

I am honoured to have been nominated to stand for election as a member of the ILAE Asian-Oceanian Commission (ILAE-AO). As a proud member of our community, I would embrace the opportunities and challenges that come with serving our Region. I would strive to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to address the needs and interests of our Region, building on the outstanding work of the current Commission and that of its predecessors.

With almost 5 billion people, our Region accounts for the largest proportion of the world population. It encompasses diverse healthcare systems, cultures, religions, and economies. Yet, our diversity is also a strength, allowing our voice to have broader reach, acting as leaders at a global stage. Importantly, by working together, we are ideally positioned to drive meaningful change and make a positive impact across epilepsy care, education, research, and advocacy. If elected, I will work to:

- 1) **Strengthen existing collaborations and foster new ones**, following the principles of inclusivity and equity as well as open communication.
- 2) **Progress the implementation of IGAP**. An example of my commitment to this cause has been the establishment of the 'Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders Alliance' (ENDA) during my term as President of the Epilepsy Society of Australia. ENDA is a partnership which brings together the Epilepsy Society of Australia, other organisations of healthcare professionals/researchers, patient support organisations, and consumers, to implement and advance the IGAP mission in Australia.
- 3) **Address inequities in access to care**. It is a responsibility of the Asian-Oceanian Commission to work with Chapters, governments and other relevant stakeholders to overcome regional barriers to equitable access to care, pursuing an open dialogue with all parties involved.
- 4) **Enhance education and training**. I am strongly committed to fostering education and training. In my clinical and academic roles, I have trained >25 epilepsy fellows and supervised 30 graduate/undergraduate students from Oceanian and Asian countries in the past 8 years. I have also been actively involved in teaching in our Region. ILAE-AO provides several outstanding educational and training opportunities through ASEPA and AOEC, which should be further strengthened.
- 5) **Support research**. I am passionate about research, particularly collaborative research, to advance the epilepsy field. A major achievement during my term as Chair of the ILAE Genetics Commission was the completion of the third genome-wide association study (GWAS) analysis by the ILAE Consortium on Complex Epilepsies, including almost 30,000 epilepsy cases from different parts of the world (*Nature Genetics* 2023). This remarkable endeavour has substantially improved our understanding of the genetic architecture of the common epilepsies and is a posterchild for successful international collaborative research, including from our Region.
- 6) **Support greater representation in the ILAE of Chapters from our Region**, ensuring that local Chapters have the opportunity to voice out their needs and find appropriate solutions.

It would be a privilege to serve and advocate for our outstanding community, inspired by the many healthcare professionals and researchers who manage to deliver meaningful outcomes in spite of resource constraints or other challenges.

I humbly seek your support in this election.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Piero Perucca', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Piero Perucca, MD, PhD, FRACP, FAES**

Professor of Adult Epilepsy and Deputy Academic Lead

Department of Medicine (Austin Health), The University of Melbourne

Director, Bladin-Berkovic Comprehensive Epilepsy Program

Department of Neurology, Austin Health

President, Epilepsy Society of Australia

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia