

## **Statement for EMR board member Election**

I am eager to apply for the EMR Board Member position at the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) epilepsy organisation. This position holds great significance because it represents an opportunity to continue the epilepsy education and care work.

I have dedicated myself to serving particularly in the EMR region. Since 2020, I have proposed and have been responsible for organising monthly educational English webinars, where I have been tasked with booking speakers and designing the webinar content, with the support of the EMR board members and the ILAE secretary. It began as a simple initiative and has evolved into something meaningful, attracting an average of 1,700 participants each year. The participants come from all over the EMR, Africa and other parts of the world, which is a clear indication of how much this resource is appreciated worldwide. In addition to these activities, I have worked with my colleagues from the African region from 2021 to 2023. These partnerships have not only increased our reach but have also helped to create a sense of shared purpose. We are all working together to create a world where epilepsy care will not be limited by geography or resources.

I am also proud of my role in leading the translation of key ILAE publications into Arabic, in collaboration with various EMR specialists and the ILAE Translational Task Force. This is a small but significant step to make important information accessible to Arabic-speaking health professionals and communities.

I have been privileged enough to be a member of several ILAE task forces and co-author two publications, which have kept me very much involved with both the academic and practical aspects of the field. However, some of the EMR countries are still facing some challenges, such as a lack of access, delays in diagnosis and stigma that still exists. Education is where real progress starts. Expanding culturally sensitive and multilingual educational initiatives will help us reduce treatment gaps, not all at once, but gradually.

My priorities align entirely with the Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP). In particular, I'm focused on • Enhancing the availability and quality of epilepsy services, • Using education to reduce stigma and increase awareness, • Building stronger, better-equipped medical teams, • Encouraging research that's collaborative and forward-thinking.

If I am allowed to serve on the board, I will continue to push for education to be a fundamental part of our work. I am committed to expanding our impact, fostering inclusive partnerships, and doing everything I can to improve the care of people living with epilepsy, not just in the EMR, but wherever we can make a difference.

With Appreciation,

Dr Fatema Abdulla  
Bahrain Epilepsy Chapter