

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Dear President and Officers of the ILAE Chapters

It is a great honor to be nominated as a candidate for the European Regional Committee of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). Throughout my career, I have remained deeply committed to improving the lives of people living with epilepsy and supporting the medical professionals who care for them. My work has extended beyond clinical care and academic research to building strong professional communities, fostering societal understanding, and advocating for fairer, evidence-based policies. If entrusted with this role, I will bring the same energy, vision, and collaborative spirit to the international stage.

As President of the Turkish Chapter of the ILAE, I have worked to foster unity and a shared sense of purpose among epilepsy professionals across the country. A particular priority has been supporting early-career neurologists and encouraging them to pursue specialization in epileptology. This effort led to the establishment of the Turkish Young Epilepsy Section (YES), which now forms part of a vibrant, inclusive national epilepsy network reaching even the most remote regions of Türkiye.

In parallel, I have been deeply involved in public engagement and awareness efforts aimed at reducing stigma. Our wide-reaching national campaigns developed in collaboration with media, artists, athletes, and the private sector have brought epilepsy into the public conversation and received recognition for their social impact.

One initiative especially close to my heart has been the reform of driving laws affecting people with epilepsy. Previously, a seizure diagnosis resulted in an automatic, lifelong driving ban. I was privileged to contribute to a movement that introduced scientific reasoning and proportionality into the conversation, resulting in a risk-based, fairer policy that restores autonomy and dignity to many individuals previously excluded by outdated legislation.

Alongside these advocacy efforts, I continue to actively mentor medical students, neurology residents, and fellows in clinical neurophysiology and neuroscience, while maintaining strong research collaborations both nationally and internationally.

If elected, I will dedicate myself to strengthening regional collaboration, supporting the growth of the next generation of epileptologists, promoting equity in access to epilepsy care, and contributing meaningfully to the strategic goals of the ILAE.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

With my thanks and best regards.

Prof. Dr. Nerses Bebek

President, Turkish Chapter of the ILAE

Neurologist, Clinical Neurophysiologist, PhD in Genetics