

Election Statement

Professor, Dr. Jakob Christensen, PhD, Aarhus University Hospital and Aarhus University, Denmark
Candidate for Member, ILAE-Europe Committee (2025–2029 Term)

Background & Expertise

• Clinical and academic leadership in epilepsy

My name is Jakob Christensen and I am a Clinical Professor at the Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University, and Consultant Neurologist at the Department of Neurology, Aarhus University Hospital (Affiliated member of EpiCARE), Aarhus, Denmark. I have extensive experience in epilepsy care and research.

• Epidemiology and population health research

My main contribution has been from large population-based studies in Denmark exploring epilepsy prevalence and psychiatric comorbidities in studies of causes and consequences of epilepsy. Further, my work highlights seizure-related socioeconomic challenges, shaping strategies for more comprehensive epilepsy care.

• Involvement in ILAE activities

As a member of the ILAE Epidemiology Commission and active representative for the Danish chapter, I have contributed to guideline development, educational initiatives, and public health advocacy.

My vision & goals for ILAE-Europe (2025–29)

1. Strengthen evidence-based policy across Europe

- Promote continent-wide epidemiological surveillance to inform policy and resource allocation.
- Leverage expertise in registry-based research to support regional epilepsy action plans.

2. Enhance equitable access to care

- Champion data-driven advocacy to drive equitable distribution of epilepsy treatments and services—for example, antiseizure medications.
- Support programs targeting underserved regions and underrepresented patient groups.

3. Foster research and education collaboration

- Expand capacity for multicentre clinical and real-world studies, particularly in antiseizure therapy.
- Facilitate exchanges between clinicians, researchers, and public health professionals across Europe.

4. Address social and psychiatric impacts of epilepsy

- Apply insights from social-epidemiological research to design targeted interventions, addressing areas such as employment, mental health, and stigma reduction.
 - Collaborate with allied organizations (e.g. WHO, national health ministries) to integrate epilepsy into broader neurological and mental health frameworks.
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Why elect Professor, Dr. Jakob Christensen?

- **Integrated expertise:** I have a broad background that bridges neurology, clinical pharmacology, epidemiology, and health policy—critical for shaping data-informed regional strategies.
 - **Proven track record:** A history of leadership in multicentre European studies and contributions to ILAE commissions.
 - **Patient-centred advocacy:** Driven by a clear understanding of how epilepsy affects everyday life, my contribution seeks solutions grounded in real-world data and clinical experience.
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In summary, as a member of ILAE Europe Committee, I will be uniquely positioned to advance ILAE-Europe through evidence-based policymaking, improved treatment equity, robust research collaboration, and advocacy that addresses both clinical and social dimensions of epilepsy.

With your support, I will work with ILAE-Europe to harness research, policy, and patient advocacy for a stronger, more inclusive future in epilepsy care.

Kind regards

Jakob