

## **Personal Statement – Dr. Ronit Pressler, PhD, MD, FRCP, MRCPCH**

### *Candidacy for ILAE-Europe (CEA) 2025–2029*

It is both a great honour and privilege to be nominated for ILAE-Europe. I trained and worked in both Germany and the UK, and along with the work I have done with ILAE and EpiCARE, I feel deeply connected to the European epilepsy community. Throughout my career, I have seen first-hand the impact of the ILAE's work—both globally and within Europe—in shaping epilepsy care, education, and research. I have always valued the way in which ILAE balances international leadership with a deep understanding of regional priorities and the diverse needs of its member countries.

My professional journey has been closely tied to ILAE's mission. Over the past two decades, I have been involved in its educational activities, classification efforts, and clinical guideline development. I believe strongly in the value of collaboration, and if elected to the ILAE-Europe board, I would work to strengthen connections between national chapters, specialties, and the wider epilepsy community.

My vision for ILAE-Europe focuses on three key priorities:

#### **1. Strengthening education and training.**

Education is the foundation for better epilepsy care. ILAE-Europe already has a strong tradition of teaching, and I would like to support the continued growth of accessible, high-quality training—both virtual and in-person. From EEG interpretation to clinical decision-making, we need to offer structured learning pathways that support healthcare professionals at all levels and in all parts of Europe. Expanding collaborative and cross-border teaching initiatives is one of my main goals.

#### **2. Fostering collaboration across disciplines, countries, and communities.**

Many of the challenges which we face—whether in diagnosis, treatment, or research—can only be tackled together. ILAE-Europe can play a powerful role in building connections between paediatric and adult care, clinical and academic fields, and with patients and advocacy groups. Through my work with ILAE task forces, EpiCARE (where I sit on the Executive Committee and co-lead the Neonatal Seizures & Epilepsies group), and the British Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, I have seen how collaboration can lead to more consistent care and greater innovation. I would work to encourage dialogue and joint projects across borders, chapters and professional groups.

#### **3. Reducing disparities in care and closing the treatment gap.**

A persistent challenge across Europe is the unequal access to diagnosis and treatment. These disparities begin early—often with missed or delayed diagnosis—and affect both children and adults. EEG availability and interpretation skills remain highly variable, and access to surgical evaluation or targeted therapies is uneven. ILAE-Europe is uniquely placed to help address this gap by supporting local training, disseminating guidelines, and building networks of expertise. This is especially relevant in paediatric epilepsy, where early diagnosis can dramatically change outcomes.

These priorities reflect my longstanding commitment to improving epilepsy care through education, evidence-based practice, and collaborative leadership. I would be honoured to contribute to the next chapter of ILAE-Europe's work—helping to build a more connected, equitable, and forward-looking epilepsy community across Europe.