

The primary purpose of a professional organization is to support the needs of its members and to promote their professional lives. If elected President, my focus will be to serve the needs of our chapters and the League members who make up those chapters. The new League constitution of 2011 was aimed at broader member participation in directing the League's efforts. To seek member guidance the Executive Committee had group discussions with chapter leaders at the 2019 International Epilepsy Congress. **You told us that there were key areas of support that the League should provide: programs on how to manage a chapter, support for chapters to develop national guidelines, an increased focus on regional efforts and guidance on career development.**

Your message was clear, and here is what I propose:

Managing chapters. Our chapters are very diverse, from very small to very large, but all have experiences to share and new things to learn about improving operations. We will develop programs that help our chapters operate effectively and become forceful epilepsy advocates. These programs will include effective management, communication with the public and best advocacy practices as well as more open sessions for chapters to share their experiences.

Supporting national guidelines. Locally appropriate guidelines are essential for guiding national epilepsy policies. To meet your requests, we will establish a framework for creating national guidelines that chapters can build on and which the League can support. Creation of these guidelines will also support our advocacy efforts in Global Outreach with the WHO by clarifying the needs of people with epilepsy. Working groups will develop essential guideline topics and review proposed guidelines for League compliance.

Improved regional support. Essential League activities take place in the regions. To expand these efforts we must redirect League's resources to our regions to support programs that range from primary epilepsy care education to cutting edge technology to advocacy. We must use our resources where they will have the greatest impact to meet our mission.

Career development. Courses, networking and participation in the affairs of the League are important parts of career development. We will establish a career development curriculum for our congresses and to help our members achieve their professional goals. In addition we will expand the number of members who are involved in directing the League's efforts to assure that diverse views have a voice and to strengthen international epilepsy networking. Ongoing epilepsy education is essential for career development. Epilepsy specialty certification by the League has been in discussion for over five years and we will fully establish certification and support the educational curriculum that will lead to certification.

My twelve years of working with the Executive Committee has taught me that the success of the international epilepsy movement depends on the success of our chapters and members. Working together, we can succeed and accomplish the goals you have set for us.

I would be greatly honored to serve as your president as we work together to meet our common goals.