

Dear President and Officers of the ILAE Chapter,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I feel honored to be nominated to serve on the Executive Committee of the ILAE in 2021-2025. The accomplishments of the League for more than 110 years are tremendous; the outstanding role of the ILAE as the leading multidisciplinary and multinational society of physicians and health professionals in all domains of epilepsy are well recognized.

Our President-Elect, Professor Helen Cross, postulated key priorities for the next term: Epilepsy at a local level, continued inclusivity and diversity, expanding education, review of our congresses, our partner organizations. I believe I can contribute meaningfully to the implementation of these goals in view of my background, professional expertise and the extensive experience I have gained while serving the ILAE for 20 years, particularly in my current role as ILAE Vice-President and prior to this - Chair of the Global Outreach Task Force of the ILAE and Secretary of the ILAE Commission of European affairs.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve on the Executive/Management Committee and to contribute to the success of this outstanding team, including the development of the organizational structure by establishing core councils and appointing an Executive Director, enhancing financial sustainability, making great achievements in education, publication and congress domains.

Specifically, I focused on promoting epilepsy as a public health priority at the level of the WHO and Member States, fostering collaborative efforts in epilepsy, increasing the commitment of Member States to epilepsy and promoting interaction with non-state actors. I contributed significantly and co-led several important ILAE endeavors in collaboration with the WHO, including the WHO-ILAE-IBE Global Report on epilepsy and the first-ever official Side event on epilepsy at the 72nd World Health Assembly. I coordinated the work on the item of epilepsy at the 146th Meeting of the WHO Executive Board, where the support for epilepsy was overwhelming, with over 120 countries highlighting the need to address the global burden of epilepsy.

Maintaining the momentum, we need to strive forward:

- to ensure that the victorious Decision of the 146th Meeting of the WHO Executive Board will translate into the Resolution of the **73th World Health Assembly on the Global Action plan** on Epilepsy and Its Synergies with Other Neurological Disorders
- to **expand epilepsy advocacy** programs and initiatives at the global, regional, and country levels
- to **engage countries** all over the world to make financial, human and other resources available to improve access to care, reduce stigma and increase funding for epilepsy research.
- to advance collaborative **research advocacy** initiatives and to increase public support for epilepsy research
- to continue and expand key partnerships between the **WHO, ILAE and IBE**
- to **strengthen the collaboration** with the WFN, EAN and other professional organizations in neurology, neurosurgery, pediatrics, psychiatry, psychology and other relevant organizations, that will contribute to the improvement of care and raise awareness about epilepsy
- to appropriately assess the **magnitude of the medical, social and economic burden of epilepsy** to further expand its role on the global agenda.

Following the strategy outlined by the President-elect, I will, if elected, foster the position of epilepsy as a public health imperative, engaging governments into taking concrete actions to improve epilepsy care, promoting public awareness and allocating resources to epilepsy care, research and education. I think it is essential to develop and strengthen solid international collaborations in education and research, enrich the teamwork with greater participation of all the ILAE Chapters, identifying priorities and needs and implementing successful initiatives.

My commitment to the ILAE is longstanding. I am fully aware of the special challenges we face during these critical times, when the globe is emerging from the ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I sincerely thank all the ILAE chapters that nominated me and I am inspired to work towards a world where no person's life is limited by epilepsy. I would be most grateful for your support.

*Respectfully Yours,*



Alla Guekht