

Election statement for the Chair, International League Against Epilepsy, Commission on North American affairs (ILAE-NA). Candidate: Jaideep Kapur, MBBS, PhD

Vision/Mission: To implement the ILAE strategic goals related to education, advocacy, publications, and research by leveraging the efforts of talented and highly-trained North American volunteer professionals dedicated to improving epilepsy outcomes.

Premise: North America has many professionals, Physicians, Scientists, Nurses, Pharmacologists, Social Workers, and others dedicated to improving epilepsy outcomes. They want to be engaged in the global fight against epilepsy, and ILAE-NA can help them contribute to the ILAE mission and purpose.

Implementation:

- 1) I will organize ILAE-NA around four areas: education, global epilepsy health, Wikipedia epilepsy project, and research.
- 2) **The education task force** will contribute to the mission of the ILAE education council. The education task force will assist in planning the biannual ILAE NA meeting. It will also help Caribbean League against epilepsy plan its biannual meeting. Other tasks include contributing to Online Courses and ILAE Academy, ILAE Educational credits, examination, and certificates, Sponsorship, and support of non-ILAE courses and symposia, ILAE Education on Primary care, ILAE collaboration with other organizations for education, Educational activities at ILAE Congresses, Assessing the effectiveness of ILAE educational activities, Exploring certification of educational activities organized by other entities.
- 3) **Global Health taskforce:** this will continue its work, maintain Global Health in Epilepsy Project Database, and liaison closely with the Global Advocacy Council. The task force will monitor and identify ways in which ILAE-NA can assist in global advocacy. The last example is the PAHO initiative.
- 4) **The ILAE-NA Wikipedia Epilepsy Taskforce** will liaison with the publications council. Wikipedia is the primary source of knowledge about epilepsy for the lay public, medical students, and many health professionals across the World. We will actively recruit volunteers across North America to write epilepsy articles for Wikipedia and acknowledge their contributions.
- 5) **Research Taskforce:** Will liaison with the commission on the Neurobiology of Epilepsy, evaluate and support WONOEP, Gordon Conference on Epilepsy, and liaison with IBRO. Will explore methods to enhance global epilepsy research collaborations.
- 6) **The ILAE NA continue and expand ongoing activities:**
 - a) **Support the growth of the Caribbean League Against Epilepsy:** Through the support of the biannual meeting, advocacy, telehealth, and exchange programs.
 - b) Continue support of the **leadership program:** this program has been successful but reaches a small number of individuals. Some of the content should be ported online and available via videos.
 - c) Work **collaboratively with the leaders of three constituent chapters**, the American Epilepsy Society, the Canadian League Against Epilepsy, and the Caribbean League Against Epilepsy. Continued collaboration and transparent communication are critical to the success of this plan.