



Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Dear Executive of the ILAE European Chapter,

It is my pleasure and great honour to inform you that I am willing to run for the Board of Members of the Commission of European Affairs of the ILAE for the 2017-2021 term being the candidate of the Italian chapter of the ILAE.

I am child neurologist and epileptologist working in Rome at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. My interest in epilepsy comes since 20 years ago when I was doing my residency.

My vision is to expand the knowledge of epilepsy with the largest and most reliable sources to achieve both awareness and understanding in the epilepsy field. In this purpose the formation of a new team provides an opportunity to put together a number of individuals who may not previously have worked together, but who – in combination – would provide the best spread of roles to meet the requirements of the CEA-ILAE epilepsy task.

I will try to have different roles in order to cover all the expected issues and different competences. I will be able to meet the time demands with the team members and scheduling all the data collecting tasks.

CEA-ILAE Members responsibility is to continually improve all aspects of the information and knowledge in epilepsy mediated by the different Chapters. My purpose is put into action through programs and a focus on environmental stewardship, activities to benefit society, and a commitment to build shareholder value contributing to make CEA-ILAE a truly sustainable instrument for the epilepsy community.

To achieve sustainable growth, I imagine a vision with clear goals.

- Sustain and implement educational activities endorsed by the CEA and continue the job done since now in order to implement the participation of epileptologists in international educational events and in order to facilitate collaborations.
- Built a sub-commission devoted to Rare and Complex epilepsies that might interconnect with the new established European Reference Network Epi-CARE, in order to mediate relationship with the EU government and do lobbying activities with MEPs in order to sustain the improvement of epilepsy care in all ILAE European Countries.
- Propose the establishment of a sub-commission dedicated to young epileptologist - coordinated by the CEA-ILAE executive board - in order to collect new ideas, and

proposals. This sub-commission might coordinate specific sessions or workshops during the European Congresses of Epilepsy. The new established young epileptologist European network might increase the chances of cultural exchanges and sustain research activities within the young community.

- Identification of a study group devoted to the identification of public or private research calls to be diffused in all Chapters in order to encourage people from different Chapters to submit grants with the CEA-ILAE endorsement. CEA-ILAE might also support selected advocates with secretarial, administrative and editing tools.

- Within the current networks established following the ERNs on epilepsy and also within the current spontaneous networks it would be worthwhile to give the chance to residents, doctorate and post-doctorate to attend epilepsy centres abroad within an educational programs in order to share the most recent diagnostic and therapeutic tools implementing the care of patients with epilepsy in all the ILAE European Chapters.

- Increase the collaboration with patients advocacy groups all over the Chapters included in the CEA-ILAE (on website and within congresses) in order to diffuse and support activities promoted by these groups.

- Increase the involvement of ILAE European Chapters Presidents giving them active participation to some of the strategic purposes of the CEA-ILAE, and share the strategies of the next four years of activity.

- Convey with Universities, educational programs proposed and endorsed by the CEA trying to create a European degree for epileptologist.

I fully agree with the CEA-ILAE's mission and I spent the past six years as a member of the Italian chapter.

Following the interest in didactic activities in epilepsy I am in charge of the organization of the International Course on Drug Resistant Epilepsies – endorsed by the CEA - that is held yearly in Italy in Tagliacozzo (AQ), and Video-EEG Course in Epilepsy that is held yearly in Madrid; both of the course are endorsed by the CEA-ILAE. Moreover I am habitual teacher in other CEA-ILAE endorsed courses.

In this role, I collaborated with other colleagues to plan, coordinate, and implement a variety of events that benefited the epileptology community. I am tutor for the Virtual Epilepsy Academy (VIREPA) of the ILAE leading the course on non-epileptic paroxysmal disorders and co-leading the course on EEG in epileptic syndromes in infants and childhood.

In September 2016 I received the Young Investigator Award from the CEA-ILAE, and from March 2017 I am member of the Task force on “Nosology and Definition” of the ILAE.

I have a consultative approach coupled with a “can-do” attitude, and you can be assured that I will always represent the CEA-ILAE in a professional and diligent manner. I have a very strong set of interpersonal skills.

I am incredibly excited about the possibility of starting this work within the CEA-ILAE and would appreciate if you might support my nomination for the Board of Members. Your support will be much appreciated.

With many thanks and Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Specchio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicola Specchio, MD, PhD
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Hospital, IRCCS, Rome, Italy