

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

2221 Justin Rd, #119 - 352, Flower Mound, TX 75028-4848, USA
Tel: +1 860 586 7547 Fax: +1 860.201.1111
E-mail: info@ilae.org Web site: www.ilae.org



July 25, 2019

Magnus Heunicke
Minister of Health
The Ministry of Health
Holbergsgade 6
1057 København K
Denmark

Dear Minister Heunicke:

It is with great pride that we announce that 2019 is the 110th Anniversary of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). The League is one of the oldest neurology subspecialty organizations, and, in the 110 years since its founding in Budapest, the League's members have improved the treatment of epilepsy and the well being of people with the disease around the world, but much remains to be done. The national ILAE chapter in Denmark is working to improve the lives of your fellow citizens who have epilepsy.

Epilepsy is a disease that affects many aspects of a person's life. Uncontrolled seizures prevent people from working and often result in significant social isolation from the great prejudice against people with this disease. With treatment these individuals can be fully integrated and productive citizens. A recent study supported by the Gates Foundation found that epilepsy across the globe was the fifth leading neurological cause of disability (disability adjusted life years) and the sixth leading neurological cause of death. In some countries the burden of epilepsy is far greater. This burden could be greatly improved by providing access to the basic care that is now available.

The international epilepsy community greatly appreciates the recognition and support it has received from the countries of the world through such actions as the World Health Organization's Resolution on Epilepsy (2015) and the Pan American Health Organization's Strategy and Plan of Action on Epilepsy (2011). Recognizing that better access to basic care will make major differences is the starting point for moving forward. We are pleased that epilepsy is once again on this year's agenda for the World Health Assembly which recognizes that epilepsy remains a significant world health problem. It is also with great pleasure that we learned that Denmark recently created several national initiatives that focus on the needs of people with epilepsy

There are an estimated 50,000 of your fellow citizens who have epilepsy, many of whom continue to have seizures and have a greater risk of premature death and significant injury from their seizures. For many of these people, making sure that they have access to medicines or to a health care provider who has a basic knowledge of epilepsy is a simple but very effective solution. As Denmark considers how to evolve its support of epilepsy please contact your national epilepsy organization, the Danish Epilepsy Society, which has been leading the efforts against epilepsy for almost 50 years. During this time a number of the Society's members have risen to international prominence, which has brought positive recognition to the country's efforts to address the complex needs of people with this disease. Dr. Jakob Christensen, a well known epilepsy researcher at the University of Aarhus is the president of the Danish Epilepsy Society. He and the other

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Samuel Wiebe
Canada

Secretary-General

Edward Bertram
USA

Treasurer

Helen Cross
United Kingdom

Vice President

Alla Guekht
Russia

Past President

Emilio Perucca
Italy

ILAE Africa

Angelina Kakooza
Uganda

ILAE Asia and Oceania

Akio Ikeda
Japan

ILAE Europe

Eugen Trinko
Austria

ILAE Eastern Mediterranean

Chahnez Triki
Tunisia

ILAE Latin America

Roberto Caraballo
Argentina

ILAE North America

Nathalie Jette
Canada

Editor-in-Chief, *Epilepsia*

Michael Sperling
USA

Editor-in-Chief, *Epilepsia*

Astrid Nehlig
France

IBE, President (Ex Officio)

Martin Brodie
Scotland

IBE, Secretary-General (Ex Officio)

Mary Secco
Canada

IBE, Treasurer (Ex Officio)

Anthony Zimba
Zambia

members will be happy to work with you and your colleagues to develop a simple plan on improving epilepsy care.

Thank you for the support that you and Denmark have given to improving the lives of those afflicted by epilepsy. We look to continued progress against epilepsy in Denmark.

With best wishes for a long and productive collaboration against epilepsy,



Samuel Wiebe, M.D.
President, International League Against Epilepsy

cc: Minister Magnus Heunicke
sum@sum.dk

Dr. Jakob Christensen
Neurologisk Afdeling, Aarhus Universitetshospital
Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 165
8200 Aarhus N
jakob@farm.au.dk