

Icelandic Society for the Nervous System
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Dr. Tetros Adhanom Gebreyesus
Chief Executive Officer, WHO
WHO Headquarters in Geneva
Avenue Appia 20
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Iceland, 5 October 2021

Your Excellency,

I would like to begin this letter by thanking you and your colleagues for how positive you have been towards Iceland's desire to add phrases such as potential cure in the nervous system, artificial intelligence, consolidate fragmented research results, spinal cord injury and so on, into your consolidated report for 2020 and also into the draft Global Action Plan for the Nervous System, which I am told will be submitted to the World Health Assembly in May.

As I have mentioned before in my letters to you, my daughter is paralysed and I have worked tirelessly for many years to have the Icelandic government join me in drawing attention to the need, within the relevant international organisations, for an international effort to be launched for the finding of a cure for paralysis / the nervous system. The Icelandic government has certainly helped me, and we are gradually seeing results for our efforts.

Your Excellency,

As I believe that no organisation other than WHO has the influence needed to launch such a challenge as finding a cure for paralysis, I would like to ask you, if you would be so kind, to make the search for a cure for paralysis as one of the main priorities of the forthcoming Decade of Global Action for the Nervous System.

The University of Iceland has now undertaken to gather in one place accessible information on basic research on spinal cord injuries. Once this has been done, the information will be collated with the use of artificial intelligence and common patterns and other information will be searched for in the data. The goal is to increase medical science's understanding of the spinal cord. When this work is ready, Iceland will contribute it to the WHO Global Action project.

Your Excellency,

Now let me ask you another question. It is whether you could ask other prosperous nations to do the same as Iceland, i.e. to gather in one place accessible information on other diseases and damage to the nervous system that can cause paralysis or reduced mobility and have them collated through the use of artificial intelligence. In this way, the global collaboration that is needed to get closer to a cure

could be achieved. Such an initiative could be the first step in WHO's international effort to cure paralysis and other diseases of the nervous system.

Finally, I would like to point out that at the same time as artificial intelligence, which can do so much for the difficult issues involving the nervous system, is flooding the world, scientific information that could be used as a major step towards a cure is locked in due to GDPR rules and various data security rules around the world. This needs to be seriously examined.

Yours sincerely,

Audur Gudjónsdóttir

Chairman, Registered Nurse O.R. (RNOR)