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His Excellency Mr António Guterres

United Nations Secretary-General

UN Headquarters

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Iceland, August 2018

Subject: Proposal to the United Nations Secretary-General on an international effort to find cures for nervous system disorders.

The proposal is as follows: **That the United Nations Secretary-General use his influence to bring about the establishment of a centre, under the banner of the United Nations or an agency thereunder, with the mission of using AI to collate international neurology databases.**

Your Excellency,

As revealed in reports from the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than a billion people are suffering from incurable neurological disorders that significantly detract from their quality of life and that of their families as well as costing the nations of the world considerable amounts of money. It could therefore be an important step toward the United Nations' goal of making the world more sustainable if the organisation could see its way to directing the above proposal toward the correct channels and thereby lay the foundations for an international effort to find cures for neurological illnesses.

Your Excellency,

Although much research has been carried out and significant amounts have been spent on the nervous system, finding cures for spinal and brain injuries, mental illnesses, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, epilepsy, MS and migraines, to mention a few, have not been successful. The main reason for this is that first, the nervous system is extremely complicated and medical science does not fully understand how it works. Second, there is no comprehensive overview of the international research that has been carried out in the field. By using AI to collate the scientific data available at present in databases in the field of neurology, a comprehensive view could be gained and shared patterns and threads in the studies seen could be joined up and further expanded with new knowledge. It is my belief that there is a considerable amount of underused scientific knowledge available and that by embarking on an organised collation of research data, an increased understanding of how the

nervous system works could be gained. This could lead to the breakthrough for the treatment and cure for which there is such desperate need.

Your Excellency,

As an example of how slow the progress of finding a cure for nervous system injuries is, my daughter suffered a spinal cord injury in a car accident 29 years ago and is paralysed. At the time, we were told that such great strides were being made in research into the nervous system that the cure for spinal cord injuries must be just around the corner. Unfortunately, the treatment for spinal cord injuries is exactly the same as it was 29 years ago. People who have some use of their hands are helped to look after themselves while being bound to a wheelchair, while those who are more severely disabled require help for all their daily needs, maybe even help to breathe. There is no cure in sight. The same may be said of the conditions listed above, although the situation among those with spinal cord injury is by far the worst.

Your Excellency,

As the United Nations is the spokesperson for the nations of the world, I wrote to then-Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-Moon in 2014 and requested that he use his influence to ensure that gaining increased knowledge of the manner in which the nervous system works was made one of the development goals. Unfortunately, it was not successful. As I am passionate about this cause, I am again trying to send a clear message to the United Nations about the necessity of the organisation firmly addressing the issues of the nervous system and request that you do everything in your power to further the matter.

Respectfully,

Audur Gudjonsdottir, RNOR

Founder and Chairman of the Icelandic Institute of Spinal Cord Injury and member of The Warrior Momz.