

President of the United Nations General Assembly
Mr. Miroslav Lajcák
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Subject: New ways to seek cures in the nervous system.

Iceland, April 2018

Greetings Mr Lajcák

I recently read an article by you in an Icelandic newspaper entitled New paths to peace. In short, I was much taken by your writing, common sense and fairness. I hope that your visions for permanent peace will become a reality and I hope you receive the Nobel Peace Prize for your work. It is visionaries such as yourself that the world needs.

Recently I was told that the Foreign Minister of Iceland, Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, met with you and discussed, amongst other things, the importance that Iceland places on the development of cures for the nervous system. As you may be aware, it has proved difficult to find cures for the nervous system despite extensive research and considerable funds being spent on research. This is why in 2014, the Icelandic Alþingi (parliament) resolved to exert any influence it could for the benefit of the nervous system, before the appropriate international bodies. Since then, what has been achieved is that the Nordic Council of Ministers has, at the initiative of Iceland, established a pan-Nordic registration of the treatments and research into spinal cord injury. At present the Council is addressing a proposal from the Icelandic Minister of Education, Science and Culture to the effect that the Nordic countries embark on the analysis and collation of their databases in the field of neurology with the assistance of artificial intelligence. The goal with this work is to seek shared patterns and threads in research that the AI could combine and thus improve understanding of the nervous system, to bring the world closer to a cure. In 2015, Iceland attempted to add a provision to the UN Development Goals that increased efforts should be made to understand the workings of the nervous system. This attempt was unsuccessful. Instead, the term nervous system was added into Article 26 of the UN Policy Declaration in connection with the improved treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and that is why the Icelandic Foreign Minister discussed it with you.

In my view, it is necessary to initiate an international effort, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the object of encouraging all nations who are able to do so, to analyse and collate their databases in the field of neurology, with the help of AI. It is my belief that this would shed light on underused knowledge that would revolutionise the field of neurological science. As you are a visionary in a powerful position on an international level, I respectfully request that you bring this matter to the attention of world leaders and encourage them to participate.

A copy of this letter will be sent by post.

Sincerely,

Audur Gudjonsdottir founder and chairman of Institute Spinal Cord injury Iceland.

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