

Icelandic Society for the Nervous System  
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Due to my undying belief that it is necessary to launch an international effort to find a cure for injuries and illnesses involving the nervous system, I take the liberty of sending you a proposal to such effect. I kindly ask you to take a few moments to read the proposal and assess whether you think it should be submitted to the World Health Assembly in May 2020. If so, I humbly ask you to do so. The reason for my request is as follows:

In 1989 my daughter was involved in a car accident and sustained spinal cord injuries and was paralysed. At the time, I was 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. 30 years have passed and my daughter is still paralysed. During these 30 years, great strides have been made forward in various areas of medicine such as cancer, cardiology and in organ transplants and now it is possible to change a man into a woman and vice versa. At the same time, people who sustain spinal cord injuries and become paralysed in the lower part of their bodies are only offered rehabilitation involving training in how to take care of themselves in a wheelchair. Others, paralysed in all four limbs, must settle for being looked after for the rest of their life.

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The reason why it is taking so long to find a cure is that the nervous system is extremely complicated and medical science does not fully understand how it works. In addition, both the recent and earlier scientific knowledge lies unused in various parts of the world and needs to be shared and jointly utilised. Chapter 6 of the attached proposal reveals the manner in which I believe it is possible to take advantage of AI to increase medical understanding of the nervous system. Greater understanding is the foundation of achieving the breakthrough for a neurological cure that the world so desperately needs. I allow myself to hope that you will be the WHO Chief Executive Officer who submits the attached proposal and takes, thereby, the first step toward bringing the treatment of spinal cord injury and various other nervous system disorders into focus.

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For years, I have drawn attention, both in Iceland and overseas, to the necessity of launching an international campaign to increase understanding of the nervous system in medical science under the auspices of an international body. This has, among other things, led to the Icelandic Alþingi (Parliament) approving a proposal for actions on behalf of finding a cure for spinal cord injury. Since then, the Icelandic authorities have been a spokesperson for spinal cord injury and the nervous system in the appropriate international bodies such as the Council of Europe, the Nordic Council, the United Nations and at WHO when Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs discussed the issue with you in February 2019. As can be seen on our website [www.isci.is](http://www.isci.is) highly respected women have lent the cause a

helping hand such as Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland former Chief Executive Officer of the WHO, Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab your Deputy, Amina J. Mohammed the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Maria Fernanda Espinosa 73rd President of the United Nations General Assembly.

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Since billion people worldwide suffer disorder in the nervous system it would be of benefit if one of the 21. century challenges at the WHO would be to increase knowledge in the nervous system.

Respectfully,

Auður Guðjónsdóttir RNOR  
Chairman.