

## **BOARD MEMBER NOMINATION FORM**

**To be completed by the nominee**

**Name of Nominee: Gracemarie Bricalli**

**Position: Board Member**

**Organisation: European ME Alliance**

**Please give brief biographical details below:**

*(Less than 300 words)*

I am American and Swiss, myself afflicted with a neurological illness. I advocate for people with disabilities and have been interviewed on radio and TV regarding this. I work in the field of international public policy and coordinate the cancer projects that our Society does with the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer. I have experience fostering relationships with other professional societies and patient organizations. I speak/understand – English, Italian, German and French.

**Please outline why you believe that you are suitable to be a Board Member of EFNA – with particular emphasis on details of your skills, knowledge, interest and experience in this sector:**

*(Less than 500 words)*

For over 20 years I have been working in the field of communications, international relations and public policy, and have experience in advocacy work. I have knowledge of the Swiss health and disability system and the challenges the patients face, especially with illnesses that are not well understood by the medical community. I have organized events to raise awareness of the situation and needs of people living with disabilities, and am a member of various patient organizations. I have been a member of the Board of the European ME Alliance for the past 4 years. I actively attend conferences and follow issues related to the illness, as well as to other neurological illnesses that other members of my family are afflicted with. I continue advocating for solutions that can improve the health and quality of life of my family and friends, as well as others, afflicted with debilitating health issues.

**Signature of Nominee: Gracemarie Bricalli**

**Date: April 17, 2023**

To be completed by the nominating organisation

**Please briefly outline why your organisation would like to be represented on the EFNA Board:**

The European ME Alliance (EMEA) gives a voice for people with ME in Europe and is the European partner for facilitating high-quality biomedical research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME or ME/CFS).

The European ME Alliance would like to join forces with other organizations to strengthen our voice at the European level. The illness is not well known and patients remain undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, and are often too ill to defend or advocate for themselves, despite the illness being recognized by the WHO as a neurological illness classified under ICD.10 G93.3.

**Please briefly outline why you feel the above-mentioned nominee is suitable for the role of EFNA Board Member:**

Gracemarie has been an active member of the EMEA Board for the past 4 years. She has been instrumental in our application for accreditation by the World Health Organization's Regional Committee for Europe. She has proposed the development of useful materials for patients to use when requesting disability benefits at the national level. She advocated with the Swiss authorities for the reimbursement of a possible off-label treatment for very severely ill patients. Although she was not fully successful she raised awareness of the illness with the Swiss health authorities and they recognized 3 of the 4 points that she raised.

**Signature of Representative from Nominating Organisation:**

**Position:**

**Date:**

*Please send your completed form to EFNA Executive Director, Orla Galvin: [orla.galvin@efna.net](mailto:orla.galvin@efna.net)*