



Dear colleagues and friends,

As a pediatric neurologist dedicated to serving children with epilepsy and their families, my career has been marked by a commitment to improving lives through both compassionate care and advancements in medical understanding. This mission has been particularly challenging in the context of developing countries, where the scarcity of organizational and financial resources poses significant obstacles.

The global dissemination of knowledge about epilepsy is crucial, especially in nations with resource constraints, where the shortage of human and technical resources hinders progress in healthcare, education, and research. This scarcity profoundly affects the lives of individuals living with epilepsy.

My activities over the past years, in different positions, first as treasurer and then as chair of the ILAE-Latin America and as vice president of the Executive Committee, have provided me with firsthand experience of the transformative impact that effective organization, coordination, and resource optimization can have. In these positions, I have actively contributed to initiatives aimed at training epileptologists in the region, developing epilepsy-focused teaching programs for primary care, and raising awareness in the general population.

I firmly believe that the establishment of networks is a vital tool, especially for individuals in remote areas lacking resources. During my tenure as the chair of the ILAE-Latin America, I have dedicated myself to building such networks. In this sense, I have seen the crucial role of the national chapters as well as the importance of active involvement in the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP).

As I now have the opportunity to propose myself as a candidate for the presidency, I would like to do so pointing out the critical need to involve countries on the periphery, where many epilepsy patients are underserved and healthcare workers, not only epileptologists, neurologists, and neurosurgeons, but also neuropsychologists and nurses, lack the opportunities to train. If elected president of the ILAE, my focus will be on integrating countries with fewer resources into the structure of the ILAE.

Reflecting on the ILAE's vision and mission, the outgoing Committee, under the leadership of Helen Cross, has achieved commendable goals and has progressed in improving access to care, knowledge creation, education, and financial growth. I firmly support this line of action and propose to continue working in this direction.

Sincerely,

Roberto Caraballo