

City of Buenos Aires, March 24, 2021

Dear friends and colleagues

It is an honor and a good and pleasant surprise for me to have been nominated by colleagues from the ILAE chapters of our Latin American region, whom I thank deeply and sincerely. It was very interesting and pleasant to know that here there were no applications from interested parties, they were designations directly from the different chapters, which makes these nominations more transparent and natural.

I am a neurologist who trained at a public university and once I received I decided to train in neurology at a public reference hospital where I began to see and learn the real problems of ordinary people in my country, such as the difficulties of access to both low and high complexity care places associated with the serious socioeconomic problems of each family, I learned to see the limitations and problems both to offer patients the basic diagnostic and therapeutic resources necessary to provide adequate care. I saw and learned from my superiors to be imaginative, to fight for patients, to look for sometimes unconventional and non-political strategies to solve people's problems due to lack of support and long bureaucratic paths offered by the authorities of the health system, all this from my first years of training, it encouraged me to seek ways to improve the quality of care for our patients. But to improve the quality of patient care we must also as doctors be very well prepared and educated and the option is permanent training that involves all the actors of the organizations to which we belong. I saw this as necessary from my beginning as a neurologist to be able to contribute my bit to the organizations to which I belonged.

This is how I decided to start my training in epilepsy first in my country as a Fellowship Doctor of Improvement and Research - National Council for Scientific and Technical Research - CONICET - of the Department of Neurology - Epilepsy Reference Center and Video Unit - EEG - General Hospital of Acute JM Ramos Mejia. City of Buenos Aires, Argentina under the direction of Dr. Silvia Kochen and then perfect myself and have an experience in the European continent as a Fellowship in Neurophysiology and Epileptology. University Hospital Center -CHU - for Adults and Children La Timone - University of the Mediterranean Aix-Marseille II. Marseille, France. 1999/2001, under the direction of Professor Dr. Patrick Chauvel and later attend The Cleveland Clinic Foundation as International Student in the Epilepsy Section. Cleveland - Ohio-USA. The experience abroad personally nurtured me greatly, but it also made me reflect that for this quality of care to reach my country and Latin America, it was necessary to work starting by tilling the land as the first step.

And for this to happen, I am convinced that the best institution is the ILAE, which brings together all regions and invites all countries in the world to work so that epilepsy comes out of the shadows. Thus, in 2005, at the invitation of Professor Dr. Roberto Caraballo, I became part of the board of directors of LACE - Argentine Chapter of ILAE, at that time LACE was in crisis and I saw it grow since the first presidency of Professor Dr. Roberto Caraballo, the organization and a strong democratization of the organization was formalized year after year. Today I am very proud to be the current president of LACE, despite the fact that my presidency began during the current pandemic, we had many challenges and opportunities for improvement that we began to implement by carrying out several webinars to maintain continuous education and a virtual congress that was a success that went from having 400 annual registrations to more than 1000 registrants both nationally and from the Latin American region, this clearly improved access to continuing education. In it, we once again encouraged

scientific research through poster presentations and scientific papers encouraged with prizes for the best.

Since I returned to my country, I was able to participate and gestate together with other colleagues with the development of a local epilepsy surgery program, two fellowship programs for both adult neurologists and child neurologists, and a university postgraduate course in electroencephalography. These three projects grew and grew year by year.

But we have, both in my country and in Latin America, multiple pending tasks to solve, such as the permanent gap in access to care, in access to diagnostic tools and therapeutic options in both primary and tertiary care. I see with my application the possibility of helping our countries in the region to achieve these objectives and to fight for the development of an Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders recently proposed in November 2020 the World Health Assembly.

This framework of the Global Action Plan on Epilepsy, together with the unity of strong ties of all the countries of our region, the appropriate and adapted use of our available resources to promote education in epilepsy, the permanent awareness about epilepsy, its problems, and the creation of algorithms according to our Latin American regions could undoubtedly improve the situation in our region.



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President of LACE - Argentine Chapter of ILAE