

Loreto Ríos Pohl - Statement for the ILAE Commission on Latin American Affairs.

I feel honored to have been elected as a potential eligible candidate to be part of the executive members for the Latin-American regional ILAE committee of the International League against Epilepsy for the next period 2021-2025, and have confirmed my interest in running as a candidate.

I was formed as a pediatric neurologist in Universidad de Chile at Hospital San Borja Arriarán. I later did my epilepsy and EEG internship at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. I have kept doing training on specific topics of my interest in epilepsy **Neonatal EEG** at Pontificia Universidad Católica Do Rio Grande Do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil, under tutelage of Dra. Magda Lahorgue. **Sleep and Epilepsy** at Bellaria Hospital, Bologna University under tutelage professor C.A. Tassinari, and then **SEEG training and refractory epilepsy** at Cleveland Clinic with Dr. Elia Pestana-Knight and Dr. Juan Bulacio.

I started to work as pediatric neurology serving to the public health on 1999 being part of the neurology staff on my Academic formation home, the pediatric neurology department of Hospital Clínico San Borja Arriarán were I also had my first leadership as chief of the EEG laboratory between 2003- 2006. I worked at the outpatient clinic service of the Chilean League Against Epilepsy (LICHE) in Santiago, Chile between 1999 until 2011, as a pediatric neurologist at the beginning and as an epileptologist after my formation. I was chief of the LICHE EEG laboratory during 2003 and 2011, and I can proudly say that during my leadership I consolidated this laboratory as one of the best EEG laboratories in the country, becoming a recognized place for high quality EEG performance and training center for technicians from all over the country. On 2009, I was invited to become staff of the Advanced Epilepsy Center of Clinica Las Condes.

Seven years later, on 2016, together with a group of enthusiastic parents I founded the Aura Epilepsia Infantil Foundation (www.fundacionaura.cl), dedicated to import AED's not available in the country, and built a chain of favors between parents along the Country to give economic and psychological aid to families of kids with epilepsy.

On March 2019 I decided to consolidate my great dream and goal as an epileptologist to create the first Latin-American outpatient comprehensive Childhood & Adolescent Epilepsy Clinic (CIEI), formed by a highly specialized and dedicated multidisciplinary team. Its excellency and dedication have meant that in less than a year, more than 450 patients and their families from all over the country and neighboring countries have become patients of the clinic and are actively being treated and followed by the team. CIEI has recently made an alliance with Finis Terrae university and next year we'll begin the first EEG pediatric fellowship with a blended learning modality that will allow pediatric neurologists from all regions of the country an EEG formation with a high-quality standard without abandoning for one year their duties in high assistance regions.

My academic performance has been active since 2003. Until 2018, I was a pediatric neurologist professor of Universidad de Chile. Since 2011, I became an active member of ALADE Task Force (ILAE), making practical workshops in many countries of Latin America about EEG and Epilepsy under the lead of Dra. Elza Marcia Yacubian. Since 2013, I have participated as tutor and speaker at LASSE (Latin American Summer School of Epilepsy) in Sao Pablo Brazil, being the creator in 2016 of the Arla Stokes scholarship, a scholarship from Lasseanos to Lasseanos, in order to assure financial support for a Latin-American professional to assist to LASSE.

Between 2011 and 2014 I was chief in charge of the EEG and epilepsy fellow program taught by the University of Chile at the clinical camp of the Las Condes Clinic and also corresponding to the ALADE scholarships offered each year.

Since 2014 and until now, I have had the honor to be a tutor at VIREPA EEG Course "Diagnosis & Management of Epilepsy in Neonates children", dictated by the International League against Epilepsy.

I have also participated since 2017 as a teacher of the ALADE virtual course: "Epilepsy for Primary Care Online Course", and I'm currently director of the recent short capsule created named "First Seizure: diagnosis and management".

I have more than 20 papers published in peer-reviewed local and international journals related to epilepsy and neurological disorders. I also have participated as author of 2 ALADE sponsored books, "Tratamiento Farmacológico de las Epilepsias" and the book "*El ABC de un Buen Registro Electroencefalográfico. Lo que el médico y técnico de EEG deben saber*", both written in Spanish and Portuguese, the last one being the learning guide text in many universities in LatinAmerica.

In summary, my inspiration and goal is to keep having a humanitarian and academic point of view of epilepsy, convinced that the only way of being better and taking epilepsy out of the shadows is trough not only educating the medical team, but also the other equally important health professionals that work with epilepsy, specially EEG technicians and nurses, first line to obtain real quality medicine. And, of course never forget why we are here, to really help patients and families in an integral way, and that's why Aura Foundation (in close contact with Ana Kauffman foundation) is also an important part of my duties.

I strongly believe that I can truly be a concrete contribution for my region, through my main characteristics, love and passion for my work. I am also a very hard worker, and have high sense of commitment and permanent necessity of pushing my peers and team to get excellence.

I really hope to get the support of all my colleagues that, like me, believe that with enthusiasm, cooperation and will to do the work, we will better Latin-American and free it of gaps in knowledge about epilepsy. "Better treatment, better outcome, less stigma".

Sincerely,

Loreto