

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am honored to be nominated as chairman for the Latin-American Chapter ILAE the ILAE in 2017-2021.

For most of my professional life, I have worked with children with epilepsy and their families, both trying to improve their lives by giving them the tools to cope with the disease and to better define diagnoses to improve their treatment. This is a challenging task, especially when working in a developing country, where organizational and financial resources are still difficult to find. The most important tool we have to help all people with epilepsy, even the poorest, is the building of networks through which they can be reached.

For the past 3 years I have served as treasurer of the Latin-American chapter. During this time we have worked hard as a team showing that a lot can be done with few resources and a lot of effort and I have been able to see from up close the needs and opportunities in the region.

Currently, priorities in Latin America would be:

- To work with local governments on the development of national epilepsy programs providing integrated and cost-effective care for people with epilepsy.
- To provide access to special training programs for young neurologists and neurosurgeons specializing in epilepsy in the region.
- To coordinate education programs for the community and primary health-care workers that may help to reduce the treatment gap that currently exists.
- To encourage research on epilepsy issues that especially concern the region.
- To work in collaboration with all the stakeholders in the region.
- To obtain financial and human resources needed for the implementation of the points above.

To be able to reach these goals it would be necessary to work as a team together with all the national chapters of the LA countries and government institutions and other organisations covering all layers of the community.

Should I be elected chairman for the Latin-American Chapter ILAE I am prepared to work hard to improve the situation for people with epilepsy and their families as well as for the health professionals caring for them in Latin America.

Best regards,

Roberto Caraballo