

# LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL COMMISSION



Manuel Campos

## Commission Members:

Chair	Manuel Campos, Chile
Secretary	Eduardo Barragán (México)
Treasurer	Patricia Braga (Uruguay)
LASSE	Esper Abrao Cavalheiro (Brazil)
	Franz Chaves Sell (Costa Rica)
	Beatriz González del Castillo (Venezuela)
	Salvador González-Pal (Cuba)
	Silvia Kochen (Argentina)
	Magda Nunes (Brazil)

## Subcommissions and Members Task Force on Access to Care:

Marco Medina (Vice-President and EC Liaison, Honduras)  
Alejandro Scaramelli (Ex-Officio, Uruguay)  
Samuel Wiebe (EC Liaison, Canada)

## Aims

1. To provide and promote epilepsy education and research with excellence, quality, efficient and humanistic approach for medical and non-medical professionals in Latin America.
2. To coordinate academic activities among the ILAE Latin American Region Chapters. Eleven physicians compose the Commission, but also all Latin-American ILAE Chapters are involved.

The first meeting was accomplished during the International Epilepsy Congress at Budapest in July 2010. There we established the preliminary plan with the Executive Committee of ILAE.

The Latin American Commission has as an objective to improve the diagnosis and treatment of the epilepsies in Latin America, in the frame of our ILAE politics and its strategic plan.

## Commission Activities from July 2012 through July 2013

Nowadays the Latin American region is living its best moments in epilepsy, but that is not fortuitous; it is the result of several years of work of many people involved in the ILAE (regional commission, executive, LASSE, ALADE, etc.).

The main fact for the regional development is "Education":

- 1) **LASSE (Latin American Summer School in Epilepsy):** for more than seven years Esper Cavalheiro and Brazilian colleagues organize with the support of the Brazilian government and ILAE the main regional meeting for young people and best epilepsy professors in the world. From LASSE each year is coming new generations of

epileptologists for the region. Now we can see many young epileptologists in ILAE chapters.

- 2) **ALADE (Latin American Academy of Epilepsy):** It depends directly our commission and with its leader, Elza Marcia Yacubian (Brazil), and a group of many young colleagues that perform educational activities in different countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Venezuela, etc.), with courses for general physician and specialist, books (semiology and EEG) and videos (EEG). We need to perform more continuous education with other mechanisms, because the budget is limited and also the time of our professors.
- 3) **LACE (Latin American Epilepsy Congress):** Every two years the epilepsy community has the opportunity to meet. There we have also the opportunity of meeting all ILAE chapters. Quito 2012 (president: Patricio Abad) was our VII LACE with great success.
- 4) **Epilepsy fellows in the region:** Our commission has performed the identification of the best and certified "Epilepsy Centers" in Latin America for epilepsy training (clinical, EEG, surgery, etc.). With the support of ILAE we have given more than 12 fellows in the last few years, coming countries with low epilepsy development. After the fellowship they have continued to work in ILAE chapters and the public system.
- 5) **Meeting of Latin American Epilepsy Centers:** Its activity began in 2010 as a small meeting organized in Uruguay (by Patricia Braga), but now with the ILAE support we had our 4th meeting May 2013 in Santiago, Chile. There we had more than 40 epilepsy centers of 14 different countries and 220 participants (120 aren't Chilean). This activity has a different orientation than LACE's in order to create epilepsy consensus and more contact between the different epilepsy groups in the region.
- 6) **New Chapters:** With the special work of Eduardo Barragán, El Salvador and Bolivia are our new ILAE chapters; with these two countries we have the whole region with active chapters. But we have some chapters without democracy, where the same people remain for many years and stop the development of the new epilepsy generations. We, as the Latin-American Regional Commission, don't have the tools for a solution, because each country is independent, but our alternative way is to support the young people with epilepsy interests in these countries.
- 7) **Relationships with North America's sub-commission:** The principal activity is our "Spanish Symposium" each year at the AES Congress, where we have on average 200 assistants. The main sessions at the congress

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have simultaneous translation. We have the best educational relationship with our North American partners.

The great challenge: "The Strategy and Plan of Action on Epilepsy": On September 2011 the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in its 51st Annual Assembly approved the "Strategy and Plan of Action for Epilepsy" for the Americas.

Between 2011-2012 all ILAE and IBE chapters in Latin America have contact with the local Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and together have visited the local authorities in the health ministry in order to develop "National Epilepsy Programs" and "Epilepsy Laws" in each country of Latin America.

But now, almost two years from September 2011 we have more political issues than effective actions in direct benefit of our epilepsy patients. Now our challenge is to develop epilepsy programs in all regional countries, and improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and quality of life in all people with epilepsy.

To finish I would like to thank all my commission friends, but especially to Patricia Braga (Treasurer), Eduardo Barragán (Secretary), Franz Chaves (Website), Esper Abrao (LASSE) and Elza Marcia Yacubian (ALADE) for their ongoing work and support.

## **New Commission Members (2013-2017)**

Marco Medina, Chair (Honduras)  
Franz Chaves Sell (Costa Rica)  
Roberto Caraballo (Argentina)  
Patricio Abad (Ecuador)  
Eduardo Barragán (Mexico)  
Lilia Morales (Cuba)  
Laura Guilhoto (Brazil)  
Manuel Campos (Chile)  
Samuel Wiebe, EC Liaison (Canada)