

Statement of Roberto Caraballo for the ILAE Commission on Latin-American Affairs

It is a great honor for me to have been nominated as a candidate for the ILAE commission on Latin American affairs 2013-2017 and I thank everybody who has voted for me in the first round for their support.

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.

I believe that it is important that local governments in the region start considering epilepsy as one of the priority health issues and support herein from a strong Latin American commission may be essential. It would be important to work on the identification of education and service needs and develop national epilepsy programs providing integrated and cost-effective care for people with epilepsy and coordinating education programs for the community and primary health-care workers that may help to reduce the treatment gap that currently exists. The only way all people with epilepsy, even the poorest, will benefit from treatment is through the building of networks through which they can be reached.

Should I be elected as member of Latin American commission of the ILAE in the next 2013-2017 period, I am prepared to work hard and enthusiastically in collaboration with the members of the executive committee, the different commissions and task forces, and the local chapters to achieve these goals.

Best regards,

Roberto Caraballo MD

Chairman of the Division of EEG and Video Monitoring, Department of Neurology

Hospital de Pediatría Prof. Dr. Juan P Garrahan, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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