

Report of Workshop in Epilepsy in Primary Care
29 April, 2013

Organizer: Latin-American Commission of ILAE and Chapter of Cuban League of Epilepsy

Coordinating: Prof. Dra. Silvia Kochen* and Prof. Dra. Lilia Morales Chacón**

* Secretary of Education of the Latin American Commission of ILAE

** President of Chapter of Cuban League of Epilepsy

Sponsors:

- Latin American Commission on Epilepsy, ILAE
- ALADE, Latin American Commission on Epilepsy, ILAE
- Chapter of Cuban League of Epilepsy

Considering that the system of health in Cuba is organized in form pyramidal from primary care, role developed by a family medical doctor, who lives in the same neighbour of his community and works together with a nurse, who, most of times receive the patient, a child or an adult for first time in general at epilepsy onset. These health professionals are the ones transfer their patients to the second (a level in which there are neurologists) or third (with epileptologists) levels, we believe that it would be essential to provide the basic tools for diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy to primary care physicians and family doctors.

The Conference was organized as a classroom course, in "International Center of Neurologic Restoration" (CIREN), with free but compulsory registration, with a total of 10 hours of teaching in one day. In agreement with the Health authorities of Cuba, each participant authorized to participate in the course and with complete attendance would receive a legal certificate to be included in the physician's training curriculum. On the other hand, each participant received a DVD with all the materials presented in each class.

There was an enrollment of 100 participants, but admission was declined to about 40 applicants due to lack of space in the physical location of the event, the main Auditorium at CIREN. The daily presence of the students, their interest and active participation in the seminars was remarkable.

At end of the course, we used to make a balance among all participants and asked to answer anonymously, free criticisms and comments of the Conference. There was a very positive outlook and the initiative was highly valued, noting that they had never before been asked to participate in a similar activity. They emphasized the importance of the information received; they noted the lack of taboos of many of the concepts seen during the course to eliminate the fear of seeing patients with epilepsy; the difficulty not only in diagnosis but also in monitoring these patients. And they rated as highly likely the possibility to implement in their daily practice what they had learned. They emphasized the importance of having received diagnostic and treatment

protocols, as well as the educational value that used "clinical cases". In summary, we considered this course a very valuable experience. It demonstrated that it is essential to consider the importance that epilepsy should be not only in "the hands of neurologists." We suggest repeating this experience in other countries, attracting the audience of general practitioners by inviting leading neurology specialists in each congress of neurology.

The following is a summary of the Course Program and faculty participants.

Monday April 29:

Coordinator: Silvia Kochen (Univ. Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Teaching staff: Dr. Mario Pichardo (PAHO, Cuba), Dr. Silvia Kochen, Dr. Elza Marcia Yacubian (Univ. Federal de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brasil, Dr. Nicolás Garófalo (University of Havana, Cuba), Dr. Salvador Pal (University of Havana, Cuba), Dra Albia Pozo (University of Havana, Cuba), Mg. Serguei Iglesias Moré (University of Havana, Cuba).

Program

Epidemiology, social and cultural aspects of epilepsy.
Differential diagnosis, Diagnosis, clinical tools and value of complementary studies for adults and children, Therapy in the treatment of emergency and chronic treatment for adults and children.

*Prof. Silvia Kochen, M.D., Head
Neurosciences Clinic and Applied Center. Epilepsy, Cognition and Behavioural
Section of Epilepsy, Neurology Div, Hosp. "R.Mejía" - Institute of Cellular Biology and
Neuroscience, School of Medicine, Univ. Buenos Aires - National Council for
Scientific and Technical Research (Researcher (CONICET)
Education Secretary of Latinoamerican Commission of ILAE*