

## Latin America

### 2021 Annual Report

#### **2017 – 2021 Executive Board Members**

Roberto Caraballo (Argentina), chair  
Marco T Medina (Honduras), past chair  
Samuel Wiebe (Canada), Management Committee liaison  
Walter M Camargo Villarreal (Bolivia), secretary  
Mario Alonso Vanegas (Mexico), treasurer  
Patricio Abad (Ecuador)  
Mabel Flores (El Salvador)  
Lilia Maria Morales Chacon (Cuba)  
Juan Carlos Perez Poveda (Colombia)

#### **Coordination of Research**

Fernando Cendes (Brazil)

#### **Coordination of National Programs/Pilot Programs**

Mario Carmargo Villarreal (Bolivia)

#### **Coordination of Telemedicine**

Sebastián Fortini (Argentina)

#### **Academia Latinoamericana de Epilepsia (ALADE)**

Franz Chaves Sell (Costa Rica), president  
Alejandro Scaramelli (Uruguay), past-president  
Patricia Braga (Uruguay), secretary  
Patricio Abad (Ecuador)  
Fernando Cendes (Brazil)  
Laura Guilhoto (Brazil)  
Damian Consalvo (Argentina)  
Alicia Bogacz (Uruguay)  
Silvia Kochen (Argentina)

#### **YES - Young Epileptologists**

Johann Sebastián Ortiz de la Rosa (Colombia)  
Viktor Navarrete-Modesto (Mexico)

#### **Website officer**

Sebastián Fortini (Argentina)

In 2021 we entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. As in 2020, most activities of the ILAE-LA were either cancelled or held online whenever possible. We have all become more accustomed to zoom meetings and telemedicine has started to play a stronger role in our professional activities. In the region, the following activities took place. Although some of the traditional events in the region, such as the LACE and Epilepsy Week, could not take place, there was strong activity in the field of virtual education.

## 2022-2026 Executive Board Members



Mario Alonso –  
Vanegas Chair



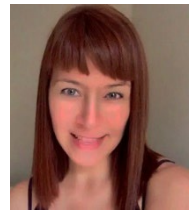
Roberto Caraballo  
Liaison Past-chair



Silvia Abente  
Member



Fernando Cendes  
Member



Guilca Contreras  
Member



Luis Carlos Mayor  
- Romero Member



Loreto Ríos - Pohl  
Member



Walter Silva  
Member



Diego Jimenez – Jimenez  
Yes representative

## Academia Latinoamericana de Epilepsia (ALADE)

### Annual ALADE Fellowships

Candidates for the one-year fellowships in clinical epileptology in Latin-American centers were selected. In 2021, 16 candidates presented and were evaluated by the ALADE selection committee for 10 positions at 7 centers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia. The evaluation is based on a set of preestablished criteria, including CV, country of origin, commitment to return to their home country after finishing the fellowship. Three of these fellowships include economic support and are assigned to the candidates with the highest scores on the evaluation.

The remaining applicants may apply for one of the remaining training places, always chosen in order of priority and through ALADE, but without receiving funding through ALADE. Final access to these places will be subject to acceptance by the person in charge of each responsible center.

	ASPIRANTES	Puntos (máx. 100)
1	GONZALEZ Silvia	80,5
2	ROJAS Zaida	79
3	FLORES Giovanna	75
4	MARTE Sally	71
5	VEGA Gustavo	70
6	CHAMBA Michael	68,5
7	CORDERO José	62,5
8	SOTO César	56,5
9	DIAZ Diana	55,5
10	HUANQUI Luis F	53,5
11	SAAVEDRA Berenice	44,5
12	MIRAVAL Fiorella	44,5
13	IPURRE Abigail	42,5
14	QUIÑONES Gerardo	41
15	RAMIREZ Leidy	36,5
16	GARCÍA Manuel	31

### **Virtual Course on Epilepsy in Primary Care for Latin America – 2021**

The course was held online between 2 August and 26 September 2021. The course was presented in Spanish and Portuguese.

The aim of these courses is to improve the diagnostic and therapeutic management of patients with epilepsy through the updating of physicians working at the first level of care, with specifically defined learning contents and goals. The course was addressed to adult neurologists, child neurologists, clinical neurophysiologists, neuropsychologists, neurosurgeons, and basic scientists, among others.

Directors of the course were Prof. Dr. Jaime Carrizosa and Prof. Dr. Patricia Braga.

#### ***Online course on the first seizure for Latin America***

The course was held online between October 25 and 31, 2021, both in Spanish and Portuguese.

Directors: Dr. Ana Carolina Coan (Brazil), Dr. Loreto Ríos-Pohl (Chile)

Teachers: Alicia Bogacz (Uruguay), María Luiza Manreza (Brazil), Francisca Serry (Chile)

#### ***Online course on febrile seizures for Latin America***

The course was held online between October 18 and 24, 2021. The course was presented in Spanish and Portuguese.

The aim was to contribute to the improvement of diagnostic and therapeutic management of patients with febrile seizures by updating physicians working in primary care, with specifically defined learning content and goals.

Director: Prof. Dr. Jaime Carrizosa (Universidad de Antioquia – Colombia)

Teachers: Marina Alvim (Universidade Estadual de Campinas – Brazil), Ana Carolina Coan (Universidade Estadual de Campinas – Brazil), Angélica Arteaga (Universidad de Antioquia – Colombia)

## Online course on epilepsy for primary care

On 5 October 2020, a training program in epilepsy was carried out addressed to primary healthcare medical doctors in the province of Chubut, Argentina, although physicians from other provinces were also invited. The education program consisted of a 3-hour symposium including a lecture, followed by a discussion and the presentation of a pdf of the book “Epilepsy in Primary Health Care” for all the participants.

The course had a hybrid modality with both online and face-to-face participation. Overall, there were 150 participants.

Organizers of the course were Dr. Agustín Calvo and Dr. Agustina Crespo.



The course was organized together with the Garrahan Foundation, the Telemedicine Department of Garrahan Hospital, and the Department of Pediatrics from the Hospital Regional de Comodoro Rivadavia (Chubut, Argentina) under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of the Province of Chubut and the National Ministry of Health of Argentina.

## Online superior course in Epilepsy

Coordination: Dr. Silvia Kochen and Dr. Brenda Giagante

For specialist neurologists and child neurologists. The course, consisting of two weekly classes was held from March 8 to December 12, 2021.

Both the course and the examination took place online.

## Latin American Congress of Epilepsy

The 11th Latin American Epilepsy Congress (LAEC) was held online from 27 February to 1 March 2021.

The program consisted of core scientific topics, and new sessions were included to address the challenges of the pandemic. The congress included a 3-day program composed of courses, workshops, and conferences on the different aspects of clinical epileptology by renowned international and regional professors.

One of the advantages of the online modality was the possibility to reach a broader audience. The Interactive Distance Learning modality allowed the participant to interact with the speakers in real-time.

The congress was endorsed by different educational institutions and provided continuous medical education credits.

There were affordable fees for physicians, health professionals, and students. The IBE Day was live streamed through Facebook at no cost for the participants.

### **ALADE courses held during the congress**

Different courses of ALADE that were planned for 2020 were postponed and were held during the 11th Latin-American Epilepsy Congress.

#### **ALADE COURSE I: NEUROIMAGING OF THE TEMPORAL LOBE**

Structural studies - Damian E. Consalvo (Argentina)

Functional studies - Fernando Cendes (Brasil)

Clinical neuroimaging, semiological analysis with video support - Alejandro Scaramelli (Uruguay)

#### **ALADE COURSE II: EXTRA-TEMPORAL NEUROIMAGING**

Structural studies - Damian E. Consalvo (Argentina)

Functional studies - Fernando Cendes (Brazil)

Multi-imaging in Extra-Temporal Lobe Epilepsies - Ruben Kuzniecky (USA)

#### **ALADE COURSE III: PHARMACOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES**

Antiseizure medication - Franz Chaves-Sell (Costa Rica)

Good practices and initial treatment algorithm - Patricia Braga (Uruguay)

Update on treatment of treatment-resistant epilepsies - Silvia Kochen (Argentina)

#### **ALADE COURSE IV: INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND EPILEPSY**

Conceptual definition and associated etiologies - Laura Guilhoto (Brazil)

Psychiatric Comorbidities in Patients with Epilepsy and Intellectual Disabilities: Practical strategies for their diagnosis and treatment - Andres Kanner (USA)

Differential diagnosis of epileptic and non-epileptic events - Alicia Bogcaz (Uruguay)

#### **ALADE COURSE V: EEG WORKSHOP**

EEG basics from A to Z - Elza Márcia Yacubian (Brazil)

Normal electroencephalography - Jean Paul Vergara (Colombia)

Abnormal electroencephalography - Horacio Senties Madrid (México)

## **ALADE COURSE V: CLOSURE EEG WORKSHOP**

Franz Chaves-sell introduces Dr Yacubian  
Common Errors in EEG interpretation

## **Basic and clinical research in epilepsy**

### ***STUDY ON GENETICS IN EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHIES***

In the study on genetics in epileptic encephalopathies in Latin-America, coordinated by Dr. Iscia Lopes-Cendes from Brazil, data are being collected from centers throughout Latin America. The results have been reported to the different centers

### ***STUDY ON CANNABIS IN EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHIES***

In Argentina, the study on the use of cannabis in epileptic encephalopathies has been concluded and the results have been published.

Caraballo R, Reyes G, Demirdjian G, Huaman M, Gutierrez R. Long-term use of cannabidiol-enriched medical cannabis in a prospective cohort of children with drug-resistant developmental and epileptic encephalopathy. *Seizure*. 2022;95:56-63. doi: 10.1016/j.seizure.2022.01.001

## **Young epileptologists – YES**

In the virtual Latin America congress in Medellin, elections took place and Diego Jiménez was elected representative for YES Latin America for the term 2021 – 2022.

### ***2021 – 2022 YES Board Committee***

Manuela Ochoa (Colombia)  
Gabriela Reyes (Argentina)  
Carolina Muñoz (Chile)  
Fernando Ceballos (Guatemala)  
William Castro (Dominican Republic)  
Rossana Huertas (Mexico)  
Lesly Ayala (Ecuador)  
Eleine Keiko (Brazil)

### ***YES ILAE webinars***

Launched in May 2020.  
Yamile Calle, MD  
Diego Jiménez, MD  
Pablo Casillas, MD  
Claudia Cominotti, MD  
Manuela Ochoa, MD  
Sebastián Ortiz, MD

### ***We have streamed 20 Webinars during 2021***

- Total views of all videos on demand: 13,288
- Argentina is the Latin-American country with most views during 2021 followed by Brazil, as displayed in figure 1.
- Young people were engaged in the webinars, as shown in figure 2.

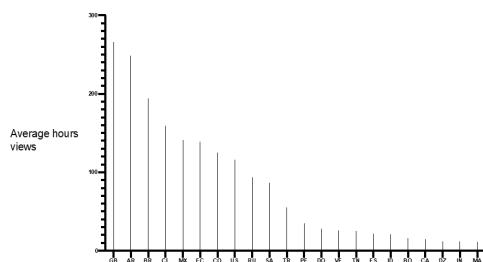


Figure 1 Live views for 2021 webinars across the world. The name of the countries is shown on X axis, represented by the two first letters. The Y axis shows the average hours the videos were viewed in each country.

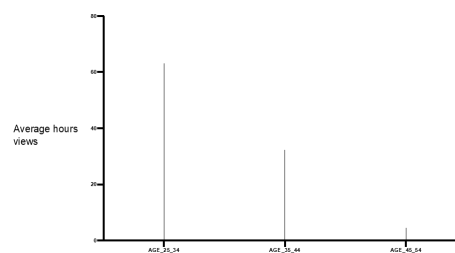


Figure 2 Age of viewers of YES ILAE webinars. The X axis shows the population grouped by age. The Y axis shows the average hours each age group viewed the videos.

### **Participation of the YES in the Latin America Epilepsy congress 2021**

- Due to pandemic the LAEC was held online
- Two YES members, Sebastian Ortiz and Diego Jimenez were appointed as part of the scientific committee for the LAEC
- YES members were included in the main program, Pablo Casillas, Diego Jimenez, and Sebastian Ortiz.
- YES sessions had 4 lectures with the presence of 2 seniors, as part of the strategy of engaging attendees.
- This was the first time in any epilepsy congress YES members were officially included in the main program.

### **CAMILICE congress 2021**

- Due to pandemic the CAMELICE congress was held online.
- Elections took place and Rossana Huertas were elected representative of Mexico.
- YES members organized neuro – desafio (challenge), a quiz on knowledge of epilepsy.
- Radio Camelice broadcast news for YES in Mexico every month to engage more YES members.

### **Ecuador epilepsy course 2021**

- Ecuador launched the second epilepsy course.
- Due to the pandemic it was held online.
- Eleven lectures were delivered through a dedicated YouTube channel
- National and international speakers were invited to deliver talks in the course
- As much as 1,280 views had the course.

### **Research projects**

- Rossana Huertas led a research project for translating Spanish medical epilepsy terms into native Mexican languages, This work is due to be published
- Manuela Ochoa is co-leading the epilepsy and stigma international project in partnership with Africa. This will be a joint continent project comparing data of Africa and Latin America
- A multicentric study compiling a database

- Lesly Ayala from Ecuador was awarded a scholarship for her project: Treatment of refractory: callosotomy vs vagus nerve stimulation.

## **ILAE LA Website**

Sebastian Fortini, a member of the YES LA, is currently the officer of the ILAE LA website. On the website all regional and national meetings, congresses and others scientific activities are announced. Visits from Spanish-speaking individuals are increasing.

## **Joint Activities with Local Organizations, IBE and PAHO**

Work on a new STRATEGIC PLAN and PLAN OF ACTION on EPILEPSY in Latin America and the Caribbean 2021-2031 is ongoing. The Working group consists of Carlos Acevedo, Tomás Mesa, Mario Alonso Vanegas, Marco Tulio Medina, and Roberto Caraballo. Other key members of the group are Renato Oliveira, Claudina Cayetano, and Jorge Rodriguez.

The following priority areas were defined: research, epidemiology, legislation, prevention, and mental health. Telemedicine, education, and online training will be added.

The Strategic Plan is developed with support from the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). Devora Kestel from the WHO is invited as a consultant.

The update of the strategic plan for the region is being developed in consonance with the update of the Strategic Plan of the ILAE and the global action plan of the WHO. In agreement with the WHO action plan, other neurologic entities including comorbidities of epilepsy are considered.

*Submitted by Roberto Caraballo*