

Caracas, June 9th, 2025

International League Against Epilepsy

Dear colleagues,

It is an honor to be a candidate in the election for the 2025–2029 Latin American Regional Commission of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE).

I am a pediatric neurologist and epileptologist, trained entirely in Venezuela. Since 2001, I have been actively involved in teaching neurophysiology, clinical neurology, epilepsy, and electroencephalography (EEG).

I was an early member of ALADE (Academia Latinoamericana de Epilepsia), serving for two terms. This experience allowed me to expand my commitment to continuing medical education in epilepsy across several Latin American countries.

Currently, I serve as Head of the Pediatric Neurology Department at Centro Médico Docente La Trinidad in Caracas, Venezuela. I also lead the hospital's Epilepsy Unit, where I have been a member since 2001. Our unit offers a one-year advanced training program in clinical epilepsy, EEG, and video-EEG monitoring for both adult and pediatric neurologists. This program has contributed to training a new generation of epilepsy specialists in our country. Additionally, I host pediatric neurology residents for a two-month epilepsy rotation.

At present, I serve as Treasurer of the ILAE Latin American Commission. This role has given me valuable insight into the region's specific needs and the importance of allocating resources equitably and responsibly.

If elected, I would be honored to continue supporting and expanding initiatives that have already brought significant benefits to healthcare professionals in the region, such as ALADE, LASSE (Latin American Summer School on Epilepsy), and the PET1 course (Pediatric Epilepsy Training). I am also committed to advancing training opportunities for allied health professionals—including EEG technicians, nurses, neuropsychologists, and social workers—to foster a truly multidisciplinary approach to epilepsy care.

Furthermore, I consider it a priority to support individuals with epilepsy in low-resource settings across Latin America, particularly by addressing the gaps in education, healthcare access, and public awareness.

Above all, I remain deeply committed to the field of epilepsy and to doing everything I can to improve the quality of care and quality of life for people with epilepsy throughout our region.

Kind regards,

Guilca Contreras