

LAURA GUILHOTO, MD, PhD.

Thank you for considering me for this honorable position in ILAE. I have worked in Brazil for several years in the field of Neurology specially with people with epilepsy.

I obtained M.D. degree in the highest ranked Medical School in Brazil (University of São Paulo - USP) in 1987 and became Child Neurologist specialist through five-year medical residence, M.Sc. and Ph.D. in USP. I had a international opportunity of training in two phases of medical career at: (i) Rush Presbyterian Medical Center in Chicago as a fellow for a year and a half (1993-94) and then, 15 years later, at (ii) Boston Children's Hospital in Harvard University in US as researcher for a year, including publishing epilepsy manuscripts and attending Clinical Research Course.

I obtained a bachelor's degree in education in USP in 2012, with an interest of understanding and cooperating for the approach within Health Sciences and Humanities in child development.

I worked as a neurologist for two decades in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, in the public sector in secondary and tertiary levels of care within three administrative sectors, municipal, regional and federal.

At Federal University of São Paulo (Unifesp) I have trained and supervised medical doctors in the areas of Child Neurology and epilepsy as well as mentored Master and PhD students in the program of Neurology and Neuroscience in the field of epilepsy, publishing articles about epilepsy, intellectual disability, down syndrome and ageing in intellectual disability.

Since 2009 I am an effective member in Commissions of the International League Against Epilepsy: (i) Classification Systems; (ii) Latin American; (iii) Intellectual Disability; (iv) Latin American Academy of Epilepsy. It is an enlightening international experience in promoting collaborative planning actions in different areas of the world was possible, including distance education and web resources initiatives.

In 2019 I participated in the report of WHO "Epilepsy: a public health imperative" as co-author in chapter "The social response: misconceptions and stigma in epilepsy". This only being possible due to the collaborative work with professionals of different fields such as administrative personnel, Health and Education specialists, psychologists, and people from the community.

I am peer reviewer and since 2019 Associate-Editor of "Seizure European Journal of Epilepsy" which recently increased its journal metrics (3.729; 5-Year Impact Factor).

I took part in nonprofit organizations related to neurological field for several years: (i) Brazilian Association of Epilepsy (official chapter of International Bureau for Epilepsy) as President for 3 biennium and (ii) Association of Parents and Friends of People with Intellectual Disability (APAE) of São Paulo, which started neonatal screening program in Brazil in the 70^{ths}, as researcher and project manager. These organizations promote strong relationships with research and educational initiatives for validating assistance projects as well as advocacy planning. Publications in Health Training and Education were possible though these activities as well as project planning with budget allocation and supervision. In them, strong participation with professional training (present and long-distance courses) in Education and Health fields was possible as well as the development of better practices in the field and auditing processes.

Since 2019 I have been teaching Portuguese speaking primary care professionals as trained local faculty of the British Pediatric Neurology Association in the courses “Pediatric Epilepsy Training” in cities of Brazil and Angola as well as online during the Covid-19 pandemics.

I am very enthusiastic about having the opportunity to work and organize the activities of ILAE-Latin America Committee for the 2025-29 term and to contribute to improving the lives of people with epilepsy in the region.