

PROGRAM

IBE Latin American Committee (REC-LA)

Period 2013 to 2017

Montreal, Canada, June 2013

DIRECTORY: (2013-2017)

President: Dr. Tomás Mesa. (Chile)
Vicepresident: Dr. Galo Pesantes. (Ecuador)
Secretary: Dra. Alicia Bogacz, (Uruguay)
Director: Mr. Mauricio Olave. (Colombia)
Vicepresident of the International Executive Committee for LA,
Past President: Dra. Lilia Nuñez. (México).

TOPICS

1-Introduction:

As the new board of directors for 2013-2017 we would like to thank the countries that have trusted us by supporting the initiatives that different IBE Chapters and Associations in Latin America are carrying out for the next years. Primarily in the program guidelines of the Strategy and Plan of Action of Epilepsy for the Americas and the general frame of Epilepsy out of the Shadows, we know that every country has its own reality and characteristics, but we are together in wishes and projects in common, especially to improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy and their surroundings. We have designed some topics that we think are relevant, but are willing to receive new proposals and suggestions.

2- IBE Latin America's history:

A brief history of IBE Latin American activities as follows:

Until 1999 IBE Latin American countries participation was restricted to international congresses attendee and to individual work, isolated of every chapter in their own country, with limited contact between them. In the 23rd International Epilepsy Congress carried out in Prague that year, the IBE Latin American Regional Committee was officially created and Dr. Carlos Acevedo of Chile was appointed as the first President, position that was confirmed in 2001. In the 24th International Epilepsy Congress, held in Buenos Aires, the General Secretary position was created, and Dr. Tomás Mesa (Chile) was nominated for it.

A new IBE Latin American Committee was elected in 2005 for the period of 2005-2009:

President: Lilia Núñez Orozco (México)

Vice-president: Elza Marcia Yacubian. (Brazil)

Secretary: Tomás Mesa. (Chile)

Vice President for the International Executive Committee: Dr. Carlos Acevedo.

This committee was democratically reelected for the period of 2009-2013 and Mr. Mauricio Olave (Colombia) was included as elected Director.

Dr. Carlos Acevedo and Dr. Lilia Núñez were nominated as Vice President for the International Executive Committee.

All these years, the Latin American Committee has actively joined IBE actions, in coordination with the Vice President for LA of the International Executive Committee. Also, it has carried out a general assembly once a year, together with International and Latin American Congresses. It helped with the organization and with scientific committee of each Latin American Committee. It helped to include new countries in the region, as members of IBE. On the other hand, it has joined team work like election commissions, research commissions and income commissions of new associates. It began to financially support (air tickets and accommodation), so that some countries were able to join IBE congresses. It supported the partner exchange between countries, which could visit and share their experiences of other local IBE Chapters. Their members have had relevant participation in scientific meetings of International and Latin American Congresses. In these last years a space and day was privileged for IBE topics (Bureau day), which has been very successful. Also, it has had an active collaboration in “Epilepsy, out of the shadows”, project and now in the “Policies for the Americas” (PAHO), joining the executive committee, evaluation and realization meetings and lately in PAHO Workshop in Santiago of Chile.

4-Participation in Latin American and International Congresses:

Congresses where the Latin American Committee has participated:

2000 I Congress L.A., Chile (Santiago).

2001 XXIV International Epilepsy Congress, Argentina (Buenos Aires)

2002 II Congress L.A. , Brazil (Foz de Iguazú).

2003 XXV International Epilepsy Congress, Portugal (Lisboa)

2004 III Congress L.A., Mexico (Mexico city)

2005 XXVI International Epilepsy Congress, France. (Paris)

2006 IV Congress L.A., Guatemala (Guatemala city).
2007 XXVII International Epilepsy Congress, Singapur (Singapur)
2008 V Congress L.A. Uruguay (Montevideo).
2009 XXVIII International Epilepsy Congress, Hungary (Budapest)
2010 VI Congress L.A., Colombia (Cartagena de Indias).
2011 XXVIX International Epilepsy Congress, Italy (Rome)
2012 VII Congress L.A. , Ecuador. (Quito).
2013 XXVIX International Epilepsy Congress, Canada (Montreal).

The decision and organization' participation of LA Congresses will continue, including the Bureau day.

5-Associated Countries and next new chapters: At this moment REC-LA has 14 full members (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Uruguay). Bolivia, Paraguay, Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica could also be included.

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6- Scholarships. Sometimes, it has been proved that there are no financial resources that allow chapters' representative to attend Epilepsy Congresses. For this reason, some financial resources were designated for three scholarships for different countries for each congress. In 2013 the following countries were selected: Colombia, Cuba and Honduras. This policy will continue and from the moment of the official congress announcement, the chapter's representative will be able to apply, giving preference to countries of lower financial resources and people that are not physicians.

7-Research. There has been an active participation of IBE Research Task Force, whose representative is Dr. Tomás Mesa. In the 30th International Epilepsy Congress in Montreal, this group ended their activity with a meeting called “Act Local, Think Global” on Sunday, 23rd June, 2013, which was a complete success. Also, research activities registrations of their members were carried out. There are other perspectives of collaborative works opportunities now open.

8. Virtual Communication Net. The idea is to create a permanent contact between different virtual communication members' nets, sharing Works, opinions, news. Also, there will be an active participation of REC-LA information on IBE website. IBE has a free area with educational content and information. Also, every country has permanent publications which experience we should share. We have the chance to actively participate in IBE

website and in E-Jaguar.com, recent website of the Strategic Plan for the Americas. It is necessary to improve what we have and essential to have twitter, Facebook for each country and a link with the rest of the Latin American countries.

9-Participation PAHO (Pan American Health Organization): The guideline program about Epilepsy for the Americas, which began in 2011 and has 10 years length, is a challenge for the next 9 years. Our participation is essential, in all levels. The first activity is the Workshop that will be held in Chile on 9th and 10th August, 2013, which program will be sent to all participants. Dr. Acevedo is the coordinator of the Strategic Plan for Latin America, together with a Task Force Committee.

10-Countries Exchange: The scheduled visits and invitation with specific goals by the members of our region, is an idea that must be reinforced. It should be a regional policy. There are countries that they already doing it, but we need to strengthen this area and above all, for members that are not necessarily part of the board of directors, but have a particular objective to develop.

11-Education: Teaching in all levels keeps being a priority. On one side, the Latin American Academy of Epilepsy, ALADE, which depends on ILAE, is very important, because we can support people with epilepsy in psychosocial areas as well as in quality of life. On the other hand, we can contribute with all the equipment we have and specifically with the participation in PAHO educational policies; to explain and disseminate what each of our countries do in different levels and offer what we have, being proactive.

12-Parents Associations: There are parents, family and caregivers of people with epilepsy associations in different countries (Chile, Ecuador, Mexico...). The idea is to register and evaluate its functioning, achievements, success and failures, to obtain support, learn, and improve and work with them. Dr. Galo Pesantes will prepare a project for this record.

13-Epilepsy News Newsletter: The International Epilepsy News newsletter is a quarterly edition and it is distributed around the world. It also includes an area designated to Latin America, where we give a report of the most relevant activities and projects of the region. We should continue with this Latin American section in Spanish, including a section in Portuguese.

14- IBE Committees and ILAE Commissions of Latin America should keep doing joint meetings during LA Congresses, in order to coordinate activities.

15-Coordinated celebration of the **Latin American Epilepsy Day:** 9th September.

16- **Teaching material exchange** for LA contribution (books, lectures, guidelines...), through websites, IBE stands, in each congress.

17-We have a small **budget** to rent halls, audiovisual material and to offer grants for attendees to congresses.

18- There are several **Promising Strategies** projects that are operating in LA (see Epilepsy News, Issue 3, 2012). The countries of the region will be encouraged to take part of the contest and the projects that were performed will be shown, in order to imitate those that are appropriate.

The idea is, for each item, to nominate someone in charge that plans the activities to achieve the objectives.

Board of Directors
IBE LA Committee
July 2013