# EPILEPSY SURGERY MENTORING IN PARAGUAY



**NOVEMBER 8TH** 

PARAGUAYAN LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY 2022 – 2024 COMMISSION



# **Epilepsy Surgery Mentoring**

# **Paraguay**

The Paraguayan League Against Epilepsy, through its board of directors, has carried out an ambitious collaboration plan with representatives of the surgery commission of the International League Against Epilepsy (*ILAE*), to perform numerous epilepsy surgeries for the first time in the country.

After an initial visit and numerous remote meetings, Dr. Arthur Cukiert (ILAE representative, surgery commission) and Dr. Oscar Servin (Head of the Epilepsy Surgery Area of the Social Security Institute and President of the Paraguayan Fight League against Epilepsy), have managed to promote the institute's work protocol to recruit, evaluate and discuss in a multidisciplinary manner the cases eligible for surgical intervention in the patient population of the Social Security Institute (main care center for insured workers in the country).

"We are excited with so many achievements in one week!! Thank you to the International Epilepsy League for making this dream possible! Thank you to Dr. Oscar Servin for your professionalism and humility, for your perseverance to finally achieve something so necessary for our country!"

@asopaleppy



Paraguayan Association for Epilepsy (IBE – Py) social-media @asopalep The tutoring plan was carried out in two visits of 7 days each, the first in the month of July and the second in the month of October of the current year. In both, various activities were planned, parallel to the surgical interventions in which the center's neurosurgery staff mainly participated. But at the same time, discussions of clinical cases with video-EEG and images were carried out between neurologists, neurophysiologists and epileptologists to refine diagnostic and therapeutic criteria, in the different cases to be undergoing surgery.

The Social Security Institute was selected because it had the most complete epilepsy research center in the country, at the time of the visit. To achieve the support of the institution, Heads of Service were involved and the signing of a work agreement with the management of the intitute was requested.

In addition to the scientific activities, it was widely socialized among civil society actors and patient organizations, who accompanied and took advantage of it to continue their role in raising awareness about what it is like to live with Epilepsy and the existence of a surgical treatment for some of their forms.





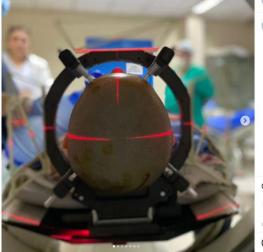




#### SCHEDULE OF THE FIRST VISIT

JULY 3rd 2023 (Day 1)

**Scheduled** surgeries (IPS Central **Hospital** and **Ingavi Surgical Specialties** Hospital) -**Discussion of** clinical cases in the Video-**EEG** room of the Neurology Service.



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DÍA 1
La Liga Paraguaya de Lucha contra la Epilepsia (ILAE Py) y el Instituto de Previsión Social (IPS), con apoyo de la Liga Internacional contra la Epilepsia (ILAE), haciendo realidad la segunda etapa del proyecto de tutoria internacional para la consolidación del centro de cirugia de epilepsia en nuestro país. En la primera etapa, tars numerosas presentaciones de casos clínicos y discusión interdisciplinaria entre profesionales de Paraguay y Brasil, fueron seleccionados los pacientes a ser intervenidos.

intervenidos. El día de hoy se dio inicio a la segunda etapa con las intervenciones quirúrgicas de los pacientes seleccion

En las fotografías: Dr. Arthur Cukiert (Neurocir central internacional)



Les gusta a fundacionivojosuepy y 35 personas más



The Paraguayan League Against Epilepsy (ILAE Py) and the Social Security Institute (IPS), with the support of the International League against Epilepsy (ILAE), making the second stage of the international tutoring project for the consolidation of the center a In the first stage, after numerous presentations of clinical cases and interdisciplinary discussion between professionals from Paraguay and Brazil, the patients to be operated on were selected.

Today the second stage began with the surgical interventions of the selected patients

JULY 4th 2023 (Day 2) **Scheduled** surgeries (IPS Central **Hospital** and **Ingavi Surgical Specialties** Hospital) -**Discussion of** clinical cases in the Video-**EEG** room of the Neurology Service.



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DÍA 2 Continúa el arduo trabajo en la segunda jornada del proyecto de tutoria internacional ILAE y los servicios de Neurología-Neurocirugia-Neuropediatria en nombre del Area de investigación en Epilepsia del Instituto de Previsión Social (IPS). L'Iderado por la Dra. Silvia González y el Dr. Oscar Servín. La coordinación logistica de las jornadas quirirgicas no es sencilla. A la ya difficil tarea de la cirugía de alta complejidad en epilepsia, se agregan la sincronizacion de los recursos técnicos y humanos para el fin último, el bien al paciente.

asopalep\_py y 29 personas más

The hard work continues the second day of the ILAE international tutoring project and the Neurology Neurosurgery-Neuropediatric services on behalf of the Epilepsy Research Area of the Social Security Institute (IPS). Led by Dr. Silvia González and Dr. Oscar Servín.

The logistical coordination of surgical days is not simple. To the already difficult task of highly complex epilepsy surgery, we add the synchronization of technical and human resources for the goal, the good of the patient.

JULY 5th 2023 (Day 3)

surgeries (IPS Central **Hospital and Ingavi Surgical Specialties** Hospital) -**Discussion of** clinical cases in the Video-**EEG** room of the Neurology Service - Visits in inpatient wards and intensive follow-up therapy for operated patients.

**Scheduled** 



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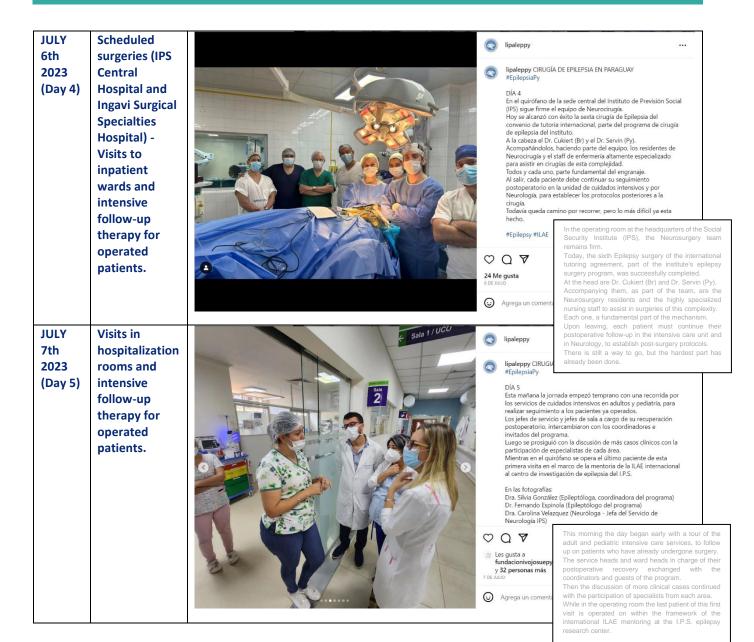
DIA 3 En esta tercera jornada el trabajo no cesa. Se han sumado fundamentales componentes al staff. En la unidad de video-EEG, Neurologos, Epllepticlogos y Neurofisiólogos compartes conocimiento y discuten los casos a ser intervenidos. Mientras en quirofano, se sigue trabajando arduamente para logar la meta y alcanzar a operar a todos los pacientes propuestos para esta primera visita. Ni el cansancio, ni las dificultades estructurales, lograrán amainar las ganas de este equipo.

En las fotografías:
Dra. Cristine Cukiert (Neurofisióloga - Prof. Asociada Hosp. Santa
Casa SP-Br)
Dra. Carolina Velazquez (Neuróloga - Jefe del Servicio de
Neurologia del instituto de Previsión Social - Paraguay)
Dra. Silvia González (Epileptóloga - Coordinadora del Programa

Les gusta a asopalep\_py y 30 personas más

On this third day the work does not stop Fundamental components have been added to the staff. In the video-EEG unit, Neurologists, Epileptologists and Neurophysiologists share achieve the goal and operate on all the patients proposed for this first visit.

Neither fatigue nor structural difficulties will be able to dampen the desire of this team.



Patient	Diagnostic	Procedure performed	<b>Evolution</b>
Patient 1 Male, 7 yo	Cortical Dysplasia in the upper and middle frontal gyrus on the right side	Cortical Dysplasia Resection	Seizure free
Patient 2 Male, 42 yo	Right Temporal Cortical Dysplasia + Right Hippocampal Sclerosis	Cortical Dysplasia Resection + Transventricular Right Hippocampal Disconnection	Seizure free

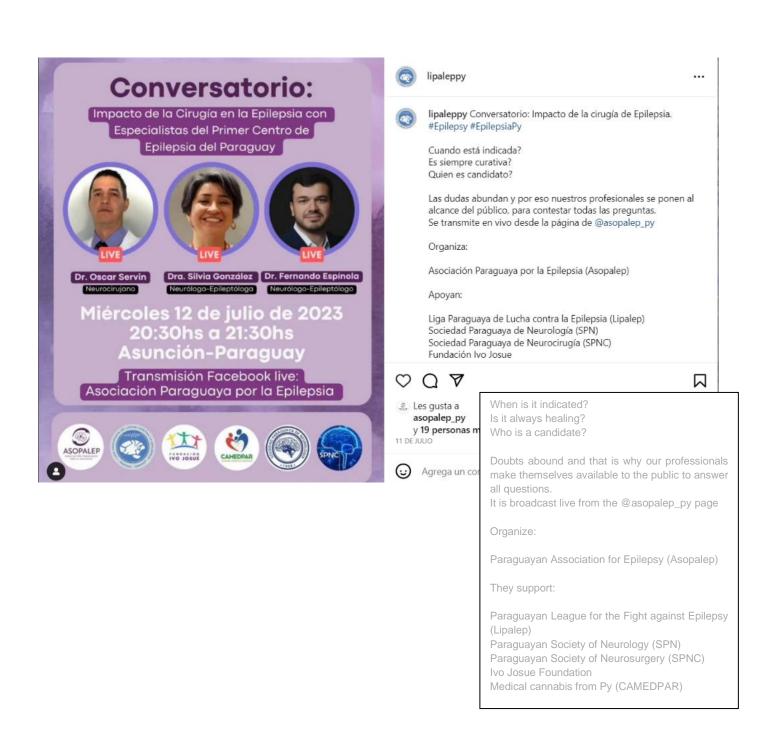
Patient 3 Male, 30 yo	Left Mesial Temporal Sclerosis	Left Cortico Amygdalohippocampectomy	Seizure free
Patient 4 Male, 13 yo	Right Temporal Cortical Dysplasia	Cortical Dysplasia Resection	Seizure free
Patient 5 Male, 36 yo	Left Hippocampal Sclerosis	Left cortico-tonsillar- hippocampectomy	Seizure free
Patient 6 Female, 32 yo	Right Temporal DNET + Right Middle and Superior Temporal Gyrus Dysplasia	Tumor resection + cortical dysplasia resection	Seizure free
Patient 7 Male, 33 yo	Right temporal DNET	Lesion resection + safety edge	Seizure free





#### SOCIALIZATION AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES FOR PATIENTS AND RELATIVES

At the end of the first visit, activities were carried out to socialize concepts regarding surgery as a treatment for Epilepsy and Epilepsy resistant to medical treatment aimed at patients, relatives of patients and civil society actors who may be interested. They were led by professionals from the Epilepsy Research Area of the IPS, with the support of scientific and civil organizations that support patients with epilepsy in Paraguay.



# Impact on society

The presence on social media was of fundamental importance to amplify the message of the achievement. For the first time in our country, surgical treatment was being offered to a large number of patients, some with the possibility of cure and others as a heroic gesture after several attempts to contain epilepsies that were very difficult to control. The families gathered around the patient organization ASOPALEP (Paraguayan Association of Patients for Epilepsy - National IBE Chapter) who provided them with support and permanent monitoring after the surgeries.

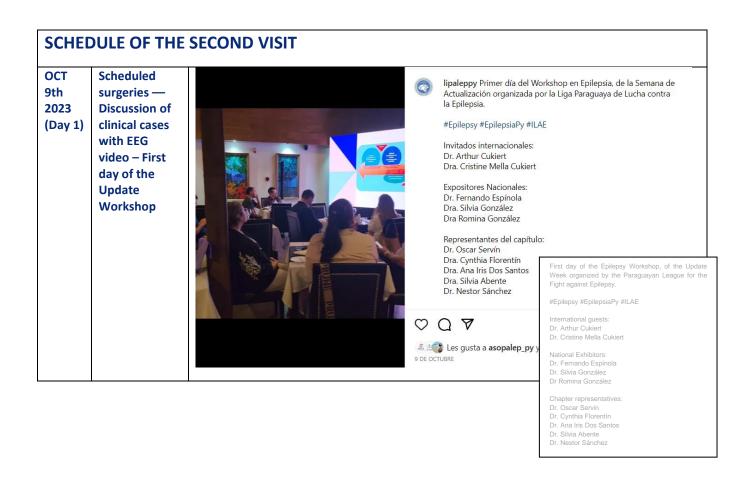
Furthermore, they were main actors in spreading the message of the possibility of surgical treatment in Epilepsy, and even more bringing to the discussion table the When?, How? And Why? a patient with epilepsy should undergo surgery. Both the scientific community and society in general could not ignore surgery as a treatment.



# Second visit to Paraguay

On the occasion of the second visit within the framework of the epilepsy surgery mentoring project to Paraguay, the *Paraguayan League to Against Epilepsy* organized a series of activities to bring together the general and specialist medical community, around current issues in epilepsy.

The *Epilepsy Update Sessions* consisted of a two-day epilepsy update workshop with discussion of clinical cases, a one-day *Primary Care Course in Epilepsy* as well as a *Stereotaxy Workshop for Neurosurgeons*. At the same time, nine Epilepsy surgeries of various diagnoses were scheduled, including a corticography procedure with brain stimulation and Wada test.



**OCT Scheduled** 10th surgeries -2023 **Discussion of** (Day 2) clinical cases with EEG video -Second day of the Update workshop



lipaleppy lipaleppy Productiva sesión práctica de discusión de casos lipateppy Productiva seamy instance.

(Inlincos del Workshop de Epilepsia.

Agradecimiento especial a la Dra. Cristine Cukiert y a los Dres.

Fernando Espinola y Silvia González, quienes compartieron sus

conocimientos en nombre de la Unidad de Epilepsia del I. P. S. #ILAE #Epilepsy #EpilepsiaPy

Productiva sesión práctica de discusión de casos clínicos del Workshop de Epilepsia. Agradecimiento especial a la Dra. Cristine Cukiert y a los Dres. Fernando Espinola y Silvia González, quienes compartieron sus conocimientos en nombre de la Unidad de Epilepsia del I. P. S.

OOA Les gusta a clinicacukiert y 28 personas más

Agrega un comentario...

OCT **Scheduled** 11th surgeries -2023 **Primary Care Course in** (Day 3) **Epilepsy** 



lipaleppy Tercer día de actividades en el curso de Atención Primaria en Epilepsia, con gran convocatoria. Una atenta audiencia participó hoy del curso con fluido intercambio, en amenas charlas prácticas y actualizadas sobre los grandes temas de la Epilepsia. #ILAE #Epilepsy #EpilepsiaPy

Invitados especiales: Dra. Cristine Cukiert Dra. Silvia Garcete Dra. Bárbara Castellano Dr. Nestor Sánchez Dra. Cynthia Florentín Dra. Silvia Abente

Enviamos un agradecimiento organizadores del curso por e adelante nuestras actividades @fundacionivojosuepy, @cam

2 sem Ver traducción

OOA

Les gusta a fundacionivojosuepy

Third day of activities in the Primary Care in Epilepsy course, with great attendance. An attentive audience participated today in the course with fluid exchange, in entertaining practical and updated talks on the major topics of Epilepsy.

#ILAE #Epilepsy #EpilepsiaPy

Special quests:

Dr. Cristine Cukiert Dr. Silvia Garcete

Dr. Bárbara Castellano

Dr. Nestor Sánchez

Dr. Cynthia Florentín

Dr. Silvia Abente

We send a special thank you to our coorganizers of the course for the permanent support to carry out our activities @asopalep\_py, @fundacionivojosuepy, @camedpar oficial.

asopalep\_py Codex Tecnolog

asopalep\_py CHARLA DE ATENCIÓN PRIMARIA EN EPILEPSIA

AUDITORIO Codex DISERTANTES:

Dra. Silvia Garcete
 Dra. Cristine Cuckiert
 Dra. Barbara Castellano

Dra. Silvia Abente
 Dra. Cynthia Florentin
 Dr. Nestor Sanchez

Orientar a los médicos y profesionales de Primera Línea es fundamental para poder orientar correctamente el tratamiento de los pacientes, saber que estudios de diagnóstico necesitan y que tipo de medicamento deben iniciar hasta que el paciente llegue con el especialista, si así lo amerita.

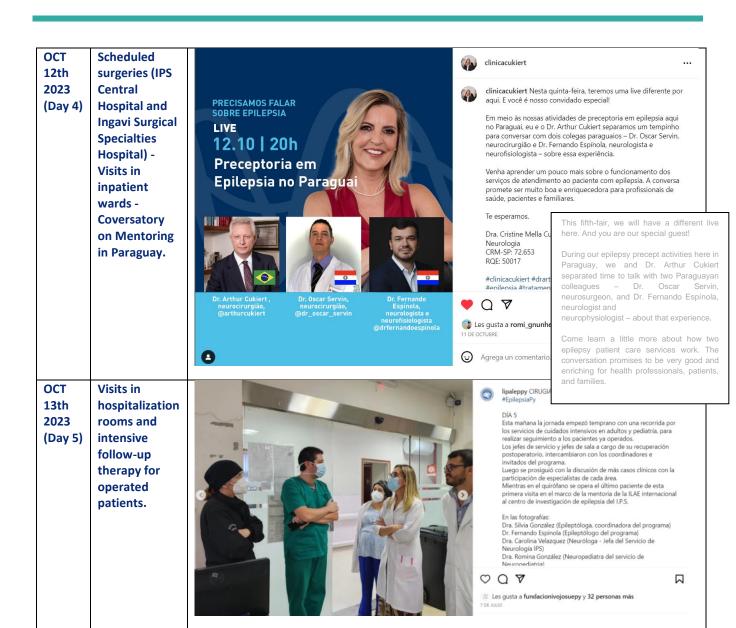
Profesionales que prestan servicios en la urgencia, cuando aveces nos toca llegar con un paciente en status de Epilepsia hoy se capacitacitaron para saber cómo proceder.

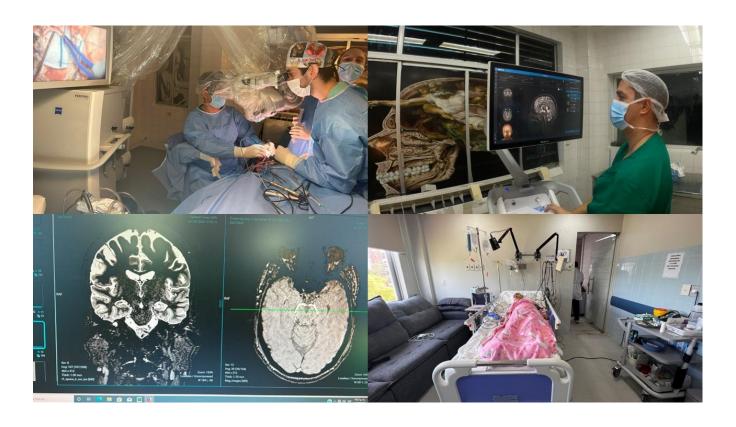




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Patient	Diagnostic	Performed	Evolution
ratient	Diagnostic	procedure	Evolution
Patient 8 Female, 10 yo	Extensive peri-insular polymicrogyria with posterior predominance	Electrocorticography, monitoring for 72 hours, stimulation and subsequent resection of cortical areas	Frecuency reduction
Patient 9 Female, 33 yo	Right temporal DNET	Lesion resection + safety edge	Seizure free
Patient 10 Male, 13 yo	Left frontal DNET	Lesion resection + safety edge	Seizure free
Patient 11 Male, 24 yo	Right Frontal Gliosis due to previous surgery (<2 yo)	Frontal Gliosis Resection	Seizure free
Patient 12 Male, 5 yo	Hypothalamic hamartoma	Radiofrequency injury through Stereotaxic surgery	Seizure free
Patient 13 Male, 20 yo	Epileptic encephalopathy +	Total Callosotomy	No atonic seizure

	atonic seizures (drop attacks)		
Patient 14 Female, 29 yo	Right Temporal Gliosis due to Pilocytic Astrocytoma surgery (11 yo)	Resection of Right Temporal Gliosis + resection of residual lesion	Seizure free





# Program of the epilepsy update sessions





Fapasa





# Tracing a path

It is not an exaggeration to say that a before and after has been marked for Epilepsy in our country since this visit. Not only because of the interventions themselves but also because of the achievement of forming the interdisciplinary team necessary to implement such an ambitious plan. The organization of a center that achieves the joint work of specialists from areas that are not always related such as Neurosurgeons and Neurologists, as well as pediatric and adult areas, is unprecedented, as these schools still continue in our country. We know that the training of an Epileptologist must be comprehensive, since the majority of our patients, and often the most demanding, present evolutionary symptoms that transition from early age to adulthood. Although in the same way that medicine evolves, the training framework of the epileptologist specialist must do so in order to complete the curriculum necessary for comprehensive management of the patient.



The experience in Paraguay has also left as a legacy that it is not necessary to reach levels of high complexity to offer surgical treatment in some patients with adequate clinical-radiological correlation. And on the other hand, the transfer of specialist tutors to the workplace where reality can be felt and these difficulties can be overcome, through the transfer of the invaluable experience transmitted by those who have already been there for a long time, has been of great importance. path in their countries and who also have the greatness, energy and time necessary to share their knowledge with the youngest.

This is the true and most valuable legacy, the work of the International League against Epilepsy as its most essential goal is to ensure that both health professionals and patients, their different governments in all countries have the necessary resources to understand, diagnose and treat people with epilepsy.

#### PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN PARAGUAY MENTORING

### **National Representatives**

Dr. Oscar Servin (IPS Epilepsy Cx Program/ President ILAE-Paraguay)

Dr. Cynthia Florentin (IPS Epilepsy Cx Program/ Vice-president ILAE-Paraguay)

Dr. Silvia Gonzalez (IPS Epilepsy Cx Program)

Dr. Fernando Espínola (IPS Epilepsy Cx Program)

Dr. Carolina Velazquez (Head of the IPS Nerology Department)

Dr. Romina Gonzalez (IPS Epilepsy Cx Program)

#### **International Guests**

Dr. Arthur Cukiert (Representative Task Force of Cx Epilepsia ILAE)

Dr. Cristine Cukiert (Cukiert Clinical Neurophysiology SP, Br)

Dr. Daniel Borda (Foreign guest, Functional Neurosurgeon Bolivia)

#### **Board of Directors**

Paraguayan League for the Fight against Epilepsy

President: Dr. Oscar Servin

Vice-President: Dr. Cynthia Florentín Treasurer: Dr. Ana Iris Benítez Dos Santos

Secretary: Dr. Silvia Abente Member: Dr. Néstor Sánchez Member: Dr. Marco Casartelli