

STATEMENT

Walter Mario Camargo Villarreal

From the beginning of my training as a neurologist in Uruguay I had a strong inclination and curiosity about epilepsy. I had the opportunity to work with Alejandro Scaramelli and his team witnessing how they, with few resources, accomplished to change the reality and suffering of entire families and patients with epilepsy.

When I arrived in Bolivia more than 20 years ago I saw the great need for help that people with epilepsy have in developing countries and with fewer governmental protections.

In developing countries like Bolivia, we need to promote the difficulties of people with epilepsy so that our regional and national governments give us more attention, for which we need to grow and be able to carry out scientific events with greater repercussion.

We need to educate the young neurologists, as well as the seniors who equally need to improve their training in epilepsy. Most of the time in our countries, seniors have already achieved economic stability and can devote more time to their preferences.

I can say that I have taken advantage of all the opportunities I have had to build up my training in Epilepsy. From being the founding President of ILAE Bolivia, founder of the NeuroCenter Epilepsy Center in Santa Cruz and organising and promoting the highly successful Epilepsy surgeries, to the planification and execution of activities that help our patients with epilepsy, like in 2017 the 3rd. "Epilepsy Week in Bolivia".

This one-week event took place first in Santa Cruz (2015) and now we have expanded to La Paz and Sucre. Scientific activities are carried out for Neurologists, primary care physicians and Medical students. Epilepsy patients and their families, as well as the general population can assist to free conferences about epilepsy, the myths and management. The entire event is well promoted in the press media.

I will continue advocating strongly to expand the educational and training opportunities. The next goal is introducing a program that can teach physicians and nurses, a systematic and concise approach to the care of epilepsy patients. This course will provide us with a safe and reliable method for the management of epilepsy patients from the first encounter and throughout the process.