

Hello everybody! My name is Jose Manuel Moltedo and I want to introduce myself and tell you about my ideas for consolidating the current PACES presence internationally, in Latin America, and worldwide.

I live and work in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I trained in pediatrics in my home country and in pediatric cardiology and electrophysiology at Yale and Texas Children's Hospital, respectively. Since August 2004 I have been back practicing in Buenos Aires. When I returned after finishing my training, pediatric electrophysiology was barely developed in Argentina, and after almost 17 years it is a consolidated subspecialty. I think I have personally contributed to its growth in Argentina and the rest of Latin America.

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean includes 20 countries and 14 dependent territories. The current population of Latin America and the Caribbean is 655,258,615 based on the latest United Nations estimates, and it is equivalent to almost 9% of the total world population. I have served as the secretary of the Pediatric Electrophysiology committee of the Latin America Heart Rhythm Society since LAHRS was created in 2018. The committee has organized pediatric sessions in the Society's annual meetings in Cartagena, Colombia 2018, in Guadalajara, Mexico 2019 and virtually in November 2020. In this last session, we had a total of 372 virtual attendees for the two pediatric sessions. We also launched a survey to assess the status of pediatric EP in Latin America and we are currently publishing the results in a peer review journal. And this year, we will start two registries, one of ablations in pediatric and congenital heart disease patients and one of implantable cardiac devices.

As the International Liaison to PACES, I think that I could help to promote a more solid connection between the Latin American pediatric electrophysiology community, PACES and the rest of the world, consolidating what has been done in the past.

In my opinion, the two areas to continue developing are medical education / training and research. Regarding the first item, I consider it necessary to optimize the availability of PACES educational activities and materials in the different regions of the world, and to develop instruments to facilitate a more active interaction between the experts in high volume centers throughout the world and physicians taking care of heart rhythm disorders internationally. In respect to research collaboration, I think that it is necessary to facilitate the participation of centers throughout the world in research projects launched by PACES, through more fluent interactions with local medical societies in Europe, Australia/New Zealand, Africa, Asia or Latin America (such as through LAHRS).

It would be a real honor for me to have the chance to contribute to the growth of PACES internationally.

