



**LIGA ESPAÑOLA CONTRA LA EPILEPSIA**

Domicilio de la Junta Directiva: Pza. de la Condesa de Gavia, 1 – 6º C 28020 Madrid

## **Junta Directiva**

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Vocal para el Boletín:

**Antonio Rossiñol Far**



## **Spanish Chapter**

### **Annual Report 2013-2014**

The period 2013-2014 has been crucial for the Spanish Chapter in several respects, as described below:

**Update of member census:** This has been the first census for over 20 years. The census has been updated with two measures: a) requiring payment of annual quotas for the last two years, which had not been demanded in several previous years; and b) all 220 members for whom no email address was available were contacted by post. Around half replied. Most had retired, passed away or had moved out of the field of Epileptology, and were removed from the census.

**Change of regulations:** once the census had been updated the Chapter was in a position to change Rules and Regulations. The Chapter regulations dated from the fifties and were not in

concordance with present Spanish law. In particular, they implied an unrealistic quorum for general assemblies. This had been exploited by some members to effectively prevent the remaining of members to meet in assemblies, which has prevented the Spanish Chapter to accept new members for years. This year, the Board managed to gather sufficient quorum to change the Regulations which has allowed members to assemble with any quorum. In the General Assembly celebrated on November 28th, this has allowed acceptance of 17 new members who had long been waiting.

**Intensive courses (programmes attached):** During the last two years the Spanish Chapter has delivered 1-day intensive courses at a moderate price on the day before the Annual Meetings in 2013 (Madrid) and 2014 (Seville). In 2013 the intensive course was a general review of Electroencephalography in epilepsy. In 2014, the intensive course was on Epilepsy Surgery. These courses have proved very popular, with 70 subscribers in 2013 and 55 in 2014. The courses have been of the highest standard with national and international speakers (Prof M. Koutroumanidis, Drs Valentin and Alarcon). The feedback has been excellent. They not only provide a modest income, but also attract young consultants and trainees who usually also subscribe to the annual meeting the next day. Courses have been evaluated by the corresponding governmental agency and granted credits for continuous professional development.

**Annual meetings (programmes attached):** As the intensive courses described above, the Annual Meetings in the last two years have focussed on specific topics. In 2013, the Annual meeting concentrated on Advances in the Management of Epilepsy, whereas in 2014 it focused on Social and Legal aspects of Epilepsy. We have invited national experts and leading international speakers (Profs Matthew Walker and Quian Quiroga). Again the feedback has been very positive. The Annual Meetings have been evaluated by the corresponding governmental agency and granted credits for continuous professional development.

**Future projects:**

- a) New members: The number of members has dropped very substantially over the last 10 years due to the obstacles we have faced to accept new members (see above) together with the natural loss of members due to retirement, disease, death and members changing to other fields outside epilepsy. The main objective of the Chapter was to accept those members already waiting and to attract more. The recent change in regulations has been the first step (see above).
- b) Funding: We are contacting individuals and commercial firms to obtain external funding which is needed.
- c) Publications: We are planning to write a brief booklet for the education of the general public, patients and relatives.
- d) Next Intensive Course and Annual meeting: The Intensive Course and Annual Meeting for 2015 will be celebrated in Majorca and will focus on Paediatric Epileptology.