

LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PEDIATRICS (ALAPE)

The Latin American Association of Pediatrics – ALAPE- is a scientific institution which unites the 25 National Societies of Pediatrics from Latin America and, in Europe, the Spanish, Portuguese and Italian Societies of Pediatrics.

Its birth dates from 1960 when during the South American, Pan-American and National Pediatric Congress, held in Caracas the capital city of Venezuela, the representatives from Mexico and Guatemala expressed their will to join to the South-American group. The idea was accepted unanimously and was formed a permanent commission to study a new organization and its statutes. The initial were going to be ALAP but for legal reasons finally it was ALAPE.

The Commission was chaired by Luis Garibay Gutierrez from Mexico, who at that moment was the rector of the University of Guadalajara; as executive secretary Mr Eduardo Urdaneta from Venezuela and as representatives from other countries were José Raúl Vazquez from Argentina, Aldo Muggia from Ecuador, Noe Huamán from Perú, Aníbal Ariztía from Chile and Alfonso Vargas Rubiano and later Ernesto Plata Rueda both of them from Colombia.

On August 1st 1963 at the Pediatric Congress in Quito, Ecuador, with the sign of the Act of Quito its creation was concredited and the statutes were approved and the first authorities were elected and the President was Dr Luis Garibay Gutierrez from Mexico, the General Secretary was Dr María Luisa Saldún de Rodríguez from Uruguay and the Council Members were Dr Mario Olinto from Brazil, Eduardo Urdaneta from Venezuela and Aldo Muggia from Ecuador.

Another meeting celebrated in Quito was the Presidents' from District IX in the American Academy of Pediatrics and it was to make the regulatory election of the President of the District. The office was being finished by Dr Aníbal Ariztía and the new President elected was Dr Alfredo E. Larguía from Argentina. Dr Larguía was an adjunct professor of the Medical Sciences Faculty in Buenos Aires and was doctor of Children's Hospital in the same city.

During more than 50 years the Latin American Association of Pediatrics has been developing an important task of approximation and scientific exchange between the different Pediatric Societies of the continent and several Congress were organized in the main cities of Latin America.

In the XI Latin American Congress , which was held in Santiago de Chile in April 1998, the Dr Carlos A. Gianantonio Prize was given for the first time to the best work in Pediatrics and was programmed the XII Congress that was held in Punta del Este (Uruguay) in 2000.

In this Congress the ALAPE Compromise with the children's right was established and it was during the Montevideo Declaration where the Pediatrics Societies members of ALAPE made the compromise of working together with other social actors for the fulfillment of

Children and Adolescents' right. During the Congress of Panamá in 2003, the progress about the fulfillment of the compromise was informed.

It is important to note that in June 2001 in the First Latin American Congress of Pediatrics Disability held in Buenos Aires with the support of OPS and ALAPE the compromise with the disabled children's right was affirmed and in September 2003 during the Adolescence Committee Meeting of ALAPE in Ecuador, there were established the recommendations for the Attention of Adolescents and their Families.

In ALAPE several Specialty Study Committees were organized that had influenced in the expanse of the Association activities. Because of the communication difficulties the Regionalization of ALAPE was considered on the base of 4 regions: Southern Cone, Bolivarian, Central and Mexico and the Caribbean.

In different times, two Scientific Magazines have been their official organs: *Acta Pediátrica Latinoamericana* that was conducted by Lázaro Benavides and *Criterio Pediátrico* in charge of Camarena Bolaños, either of them from Mexico.

The large number of Societies that are ALAPE members have originated differences and for that reason Brazil and Venezuela have resigned. Nowadays, the current authorities are working to re-integrate them.

Over the years, the Presidency was in charge of Dr E. Plata Rueda (Colombia), José Raúl Vazquez and A. Cedrato (Argentina), E. Kasse Acta (Dominican republic), B. Schmidt, F. Olinto and Mario Santoro (Brazil), E. Dueñas (Cuba), S. Guerra Jimenez and J. Camarena Bolaños (Mexico), Julio Lorenzo (Uruguay), César Villamizar L (Colombia), Teodoro F. Puga (Argentina), Alberto Bissot (Panamá), Reverón (Venezuela) and currently Dr Hernando Villamizar (Colombia) with Dr Margarita Ramonet (Argentina) as General Secretary.

Dr Teodoro F. Puga