LACTRIMS
LATIN AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR TREATMENT AND RESEARCH IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Asunción,11 de Febrero de 2.019

Dear WHO Expert Committee

I am happy to write to you to acknowledge receipt of the publication **Sharing Skills and Best Practice - Access to treatment and healthcare plenary.**

The same without doubt will mean a fundamental breakthrough in the basic coverage suggested to the world health services for patients with MS.

It represents an efficient work with a complete review that supports the argumentation that supports the three suggested drugs.

I allow myself to make some considerations that I consider of value to take into account in complementary reviews, these are linked to the Latin American reality that I represent in my position.

While it is true that Glatiramer Acetate is a high efficiency drug in MSRR presentations, it must be recognized that in many LATAM countries it is not represented, a fact that limits its access, and if there are generic drugs, they lack supportive work guarantee safety and effectiveness as if it occurs in first world countries.

On the other hand, interferons exist throughout the continent, generally because of this they are included in health policies of free prescription, having a very long experience in their management and above all the knowledge of the undesired effects, all of them of efficient control, although there are generic many of them without demonstration of quality and efficiency, patient associations as well as medical societies have had an ethical stance of quality defense, fact that has an important value for approval by Public Health.

With respect to Fingolimod and Ocrelizumab, although it is true that they are very effective drugs for more aggressive presentations and MSPP, they are not present in many countries, so this statement will have a limited scope.

This type of collaboration must be continuous, with revisions that are adapted to the reality of all countries, accepting that this is sometimes an untiring task. As it is necessary to agree on technical criteria that allow valuing Bioequivalence, availability, safety and efficiency, a be fulfilled by all countries, allowing to improve the safety of patients' access to drugs with guaranteed quality.

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I send my regards.

Dr. Fernando Hamuy Diaz de Bedoya
Presidente
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