

Open Letter to all Latin American countries

Cancer incidence is increasing, and all Latin American countries have been affected by its impact on population health. According to the latest statistics, cancer is one of the leading causes of mortality in the region, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people each year.

Radiotherapy is a cornerstone of oncological care and is a crucial part of the treatment for almost 60% of all cancer cases. It has been a valuable tool in combating this disease. However, the reality is that in many Latin American countries, access to radiotherapy treatments is limited and unequal. Due to differences among countries, it is estimated that more than one-third of patients who require radiotherapy do not receive treatment, highlighting a significant gap in medical care.

Challenges such as high investment costs, the need for specialized human resources, and the technological complexity associated with radiation use contribute to the lack of access, particularly in developing countries. The money invested in radiotherapy should be considered an investment due to its proven cost-effectiveness, as demonstrated in medical literature.

Recognizing that issues related to radiotherapy are shared among countries in the region, the **Radiotherapy Societies of Latin America** have collaborated to work jointly on institutional, technical, and consultative initiatives to enhance access and sustainability of radiotherapy in the region.

To address these challenges, national governments and organized civil society are urged to focus on collaborative efforts. The expertise and technical capacity of the Radiotherapy Societies are made available at both national and regional levels to support Latin American governments in cancer care planning and decision-making.

Established cooperative initiatives include ongoing radiotherapy education, information gathering on infrastructure and technical capacity in each involved country, economic feasibility and cost-effectiveness studies specific to the region and countries, as well as the promotion of technology and development.

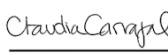
Presidents signing this letter commit to promoting collaborative agendas with their respective governments. Achieving full access to radiotherapy in the region poses significant challenges, and only through organized, planned, and cooperative efforts can a better quality of health be achieved for the Latin American population.

It is recommended that each government assumes responsibility and works towards ensuring a sustainable radiotherapy system through actionable plans.

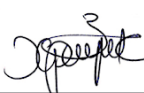
Presidentes


Jorge Palazzo
Argentina

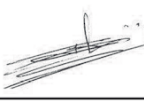

Gustavo Nader Marta
Brazil


Claudia Carvajal
Chile

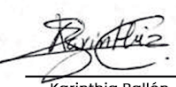

Lina María Loaiza
Colombia


Juliana Ramírez
Costa Rica


Andres Imbaquingo
Ecuador

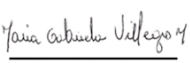

Federico Maldonado
Mexico


Hector Delgado Lopez
Paraguay


Karinthia Ballón
Peru


Naly Cruz
Dominican Republic


Dr. Alejandro De Rosa
Uruguay


Maria Gabriela Villegas
Venezuela

