

My name is Gonzalo Pérez-Hornos, I am a senior Neurology resident in Montevideo, Uruguay. I have had the honor of being chosen for a grant to attend the two-day Encephalitis International conference held in London at the Royal College of Physicians in 2023.

I have had the pleasure of being received with the greatest hospitality, being helped with the cost of travel and living expenditures, and being able to meet the organization's team, the speakers which are international experts, and to learn from their lectures about the latest advances in the subject as well as talking face to face with them and receiving advice to implement strategies for the development of clinical research on encephalitis in my country.

It was very stimulating for me to have an international experience and to be able to receive their ideas and the guidance of their expertise to begin a route on research, a very difficult task with many limitations in countries with fewer resources. I was also able to share knowledge and learn from experiences with participants from all over the world, including other beneficiaries of this scholarship and understand their socioeconomic realities and perspectives, all of which was very enriching.

I especially want to thank Dr. Sukhvir Wright for her support and thoughtful advice, and the entire Encephalitis International team for their kindness, patience and willingness to help. I was fortunate to receive this opportunity for an eye-opening experience, and I'm truly grateful that there are organizations like Encephalitis International with interest in promoting the growth of professionals from low- and middle-income countries, a very noble initiative that demonstrates the understanding that true triumph for health will be achieved only when we all achieve it together.

The greatest value for me is in the possibility of creating networks that globally connect our efforts for the treatment of encephalitis regardless of the country where we are, working together with patient organizations and understanding that in this union there are no limits. I believe that Encephalitis International is doing the best job to achieve this goal and I hope to be able to collaborate and be a part of this vigorous growth.