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A. Prof Flavia Nelson
(University of
Minnesota, USA)
A. Prof Myla Goldman
(University of Virginia,
USA)

December 5, 2019

Re: Memorandum of Understanding between the Latin-American Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (LACTRIMS) and the International Women in Multiple Sclerosis (iWiMS) Network

Pr Fernando Hamuy Dias de Bedoya
President of LACTRIMS
Universidad de la Integracion de las Americas
Paraguay

Dear Professor Hamuy Dias de Bedoya,

On behalf of the iWiMS network, we would to propose a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by LACTRIMS and iWiMS.

Our network unites clinicians and researchers who are committed to advancing scientific discoveries and improving care for individuals living with MS and related disorders. iWiMS currently hosts over 300 members, representing more than 30 different countries from around the globe. **Together with LACTRIMS, our mission is to advance the principles of meritocracy, diversity, parity, and ingenuity that drive innovation in our field.**

We suggest that the terms of the MOU would be the following:

- iWiMS would understand that both parties operate as independent organizations, and are governed by independent committees.
- iWiMS would be grateful if LACTRIMS are willing to provide us space to host an annual iWiMS business meeting for 2 hours. iWiMS would also like to propose that additional meeting space could be provided to host an annual symposium, either prior to, or after, the Annual Congress Programme.
- iWiMS would acknowledge and communicate the commitment LACTRIMS has made towards gender equality to the public on our webpage, and our social media network (www.iwims.world). iWiMS would ask that its logo be published on the LACTRIMS website.

Furthermore, in the spirit of true partnership, we wish to bring value to LACTRIMS. We would be very happy to collaborate with your other affiliated partners, to further our mission, and to aid other groups in achieving their strategic goals. To help LACTRIMS achieve greater gender balance, iWiMS will gladly work with members of the Executive, and the Scientific Programme Committee to ensure that session chairs and speakers for the Annual Congress would be chosen with the principles of diversity and gender parity in mind. **As an initial step in this process, we would like to send you a list**

of iWiMS members who would be honoured and delighted to serve as speakers or chairs at the annual meetings, and participants in other LACTRIMS initiatives. Many of these members are bilingual and would be pleased to assist with any needs for international courses. We plan to update this list regularly to reflect changes in the field. If agreeable with LACTRIMS, iWiMS could also post a link to LACTRIMS website on its website.

We look forward to a synergistic and productive partnership with LACTRIMS, and thank you once again for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,



Emmanuelle Waubant, MD, PhD
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University of California at San Francisco
San Francisco, California, United States



Fiona Costello, MD, FRCPC
Co-Chair, iWiMS Leadership Committee
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