

Developmental milestones of the Latin American Academy of Child Development and Disabilities

Spanish and Portuguese translations of this editorial are available in the online issue.

In 2015, an interdisciplinary group of professionals working in the field of childhood disability founded the Latin American Academy of Child Development and Disabilities (ALDID; <http://aldid.org/>), with the goal of facilitating access to evidence-based academic resources that may benefit the Latin American population. Since its foundation, ALDID has embraced the World Health Organization's framework for health and disability – the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).¹ The ICF is the conceptual basis for the definition, measurement, and policy formulations for health and disability, and highlights the importance of social participation and the role of the environment facilitating participation. Hence, ALDID has promoted the adoption of the ICF in Latin America in academic meetings and educational materials.

ALDID has identified several common challenges in childhood disability across Latin America, including: the lack of reliable population data regarding prevalence, the functional impact of childhood-onset disabilities on every day living, and access to and use of services. There is lack of consensus on assessment, evaluation, and care pathways for children with a disability, with great variability within and across countries in Latin America. Therefore, members of ALDID from six Latin countries have started national scoping reviews of epidemiological and functional data focusing on cerebral palsy (as a starting point) to inform a task force to promote standardized data collection and reporting. It is expected that standardization of data collection will reduce variance in clinical practice, achieving more consistent outcomes and efficient care.²

We would also like to celebrate the developmental milestones of this young academy and acknowledge the ongoing efforts of Latin American colleagues to nurture and support ALDID. ALDID's ongoing initiatives and collaborations include: (1) translation of materials published in *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* (DMCN) into Spanish and Portuguese since 2017; 350 abstracts have been translated so far. In addition, several podcasts have been prepared in Spanish and Portuguese (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyMdWRhymqKDjyWzdfkVimSKmBt0>

commenting on key topics highlighted in DMCN Virtual Issues such as participation, activity and exercise therapies, and the transition to adulthood. Our members reported that having scientific material accessible in their own language helps in overcoming 'environmental barriers' in scientific publishing; (2) ALDID members are leading several projects in the region, applying ICF-based tools for childhood-onset disabilities such as cerebral palsy,³ autism spectrum disorder, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder,⁴ as well as ongoing work describing profiles of functioning and disability of children affected by congenital Zika virus in northern Brazil;⁵ and (3) Guided by the ICF, ALDID colleagues in Uruguay are creating care pathways to provide standardized evidence-based services and interventions for young children in the region (the project is endorsed by UNICEF, Pan American Health Organization, and the Ministry of Health in Uruguay).

Finally, the 2019 Scientific Program Committee is pleased to announce that the third biennial meeting of ALDID on the theme 'The power of collaboration: advancing towards innovative interdisciplinary practices in childhood disability in Latin America' will take place in San José, Costa Rica on 11th to 13th September 2019 (<http://desarrolloinfantilydiscapacidad.com/inicio/>).

We are honored to accompany ALDID in its developmental journey and we look forward to celebrating many more developmental milestones.

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