



## European Charcot Foundation

### 1st Latin American Meeting on Multiple Sclerosis Diagnosis and Monitoring in Buenos Aires, Argentina

"Charcot LATAM 2015", a scientific event of the highest international level organized by the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Buenos Aires (CEMBA), was held in Buenos Aires on 23 and 24 October and brought 150 specialists from eight Latin American countries and the seven largest European exponents of the discipline, who came to share the latest advances in the field.

#### Highlights about the Multiple Sclerosis Numbers

Until recently, this disease was considered rare, but today it is known that affects about 100,000 people in Latin America. **15 years ago, the prevalence of the disease in Argentina was 20 per 100 thousand inhabitants. A recent study showed that the prevalence increased to 35 per 100,000.** This may be attributed, in part, to increased disease awareness by doctors and the community and increased access and better magnetic resonators but Dr. Edgardo Cristiano, neurologist, director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Buenos Aires (CEMBA) who works in the Department of Neurology at the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires states "we are also facing a real increase in the occurrence".

Regarding the incidence of Multiple Sclerosis, Dr. Patrucco, medical neurologist and Co-Director of CEMBA, said the latest data show that in our country the **incidence grew from 1.5 to almost 3 per 100,000 in the last 15 years, and the number of cases rose from about 600 to 1200 per year.**

Dr. Giancarlo Comi, Italian neurologist, Chairman of the European Charcot Foundation referred to the incredible increase in the frequency of multiple sclerosis that has been detected in European countries and the United States: "Why did this happen? The disease is partly due to some genetic, but lifestyle also influences: more women smoke and smoking is a major risk factor for the disease. In turn, more and absorb less vitamin D because we are exposed less to the sun, and this has been that affects the onset of MS. Moreover, industrialized life also creates risks for the onset of disease. **"Since in Argentina the genetics of people in many ways is similar to that of Europe and the lifestyle is becoming very similar to European, Dr. Comi, considered that in our country the way MS will become a common disease."**

Original Source: <http://www.proyecto-salud.com.ar/shop/detallenot.asp?notid=11587>

