## Nomination for Regional Board Members (Region: Americas)



Name of nominee Mr. Gerardo de Jesús Villavicencio Obregón

Name of nominating voting member CIVITAS

Contact details of nominee Phone: 0052 1719-2156

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**Country** Mexico

## Reasons for nomination (By nominating members):

Mr. Gerardo has national and international experience on hepatitis best practices for the protection, promotion and defense of human rights. He has participated in various forums specialized in this area and on the rights of patients. He enjoys high social prestige for his honesty, pluralism, family life and professional ethics.

Since 2001, Mr Gerardo was one of the first people to speak out for Hepatitis C in Mexico. He has extensive experience in the federal government, especially in the international area. As he knows the issues related to hepatitis, Mr Gerardo has paid great attention to the human rights in the context of health.

## Experience and suitability for the role, including viral hepatitis status

I was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2001 at a time when I was leaving my career as a lawyer, giving me the opportunity to know more about the situation of hepatitis in Mexico and meet with several stakeholders in this field.

In 2002, I joined patient groups and international NGOs to promote the first Manifiesto Internacional de Enfermos de Hepatitis C, a regional manifest on hepatitis C patients.

In 2004, together with the Argentinean groups and international NGOs, I took part in the project "Travesía Internacional de enfermos de hepatitis - Argentina - Chile", an international tour/rally involving both countries, along with representatives of patient organizations from Argentina, Panama, Uruguay, Nicaragua, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Spain.

In additional to leading the patient group Cibitas in Mexico, I'm currently working in the General Secretariat of the Ibero-American organization. Despite the load of work, I can always manage to find an excellent balance of time to dedicate to the activities of both organizations.

I was a member of the National Commission of Human Rights in Mexico from 2001 to 2006, in the sub-area of the Executive Secretariat, where I supported commitments made to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas.

I have cooperated with international and national projects for the Presidency of the CNDH (Roundtable VIII European Ombudsman), indicators of international treaties and information materials. For the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH) in Costa Rica, I worked with editing and translation. I have organized the second Virtual Rally on human rights in Mexico, with the aim of introducing health issues such as Hepatitis C to the debate.

Together with other patient and public institutions I have organized a conference on 'International Human Rights in the Context of Health: Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS' in 2007, which was attended by representatives of National Commissions on Human Rights in the Americas.