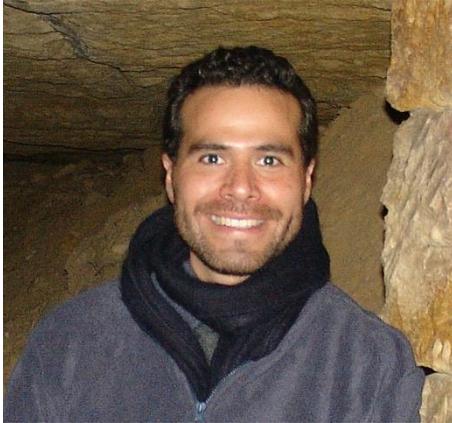


## **Regional Board Member (Americas)**



|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Name</b>            | Mr. Gerardo de Jesús Villavicencio Obregón        |
| <b>Contact details</b> | Phone: 0052 1719-2156<br>Email: gerviob@gmail.com |
| <b>Country</b>         | Mexico  |

### **Experience and suitability for the role, including viral hepatitis status (By board member):**

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 addition 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.