

3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on

# PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND MOVEMENT DISORDERS

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## Tourette syndrome in Argentina

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I will briefly explain my own story about how I created the Association. When my daughter was 8 years old – at present she is 20 - she was diagnosed with TS. It was a long 2-year journey until a diagnose was reached. When my daughter was 6 year old I began to notice several tics. During a routine control with her pediatrician, who knows her since she was born, I told him about certain sounds she made and I insisted on these tics such as winks and short head movements. Of course I received the same answer, “there is absolutely nothing wrong with your daughter”. As the year went by and the situation worsened for new problems appeared such as anger and some phobia, the environment at home was one of constant fighting, screaming and swearing. Then came the string of doctors and medical studies, until a final diagnose was reached. At that time my daughter was 8 years old. Then came hard years, years of research, years of acceptance, years of trial and error, good and bad doctors, struggling with family and denial, years of explaining to all her teachers and to the parents of her classmates. Years spent explaining that she was able to do the same things like any other girl her age first, then as a teenager, years sending medication to camp trips, to a graduate trip, with the look of apprehension for the responsibility and especially the fear of people who did not understand that it was neither dangerous nor contagious, that they just had to make sure she took her medication and played, enjoyed, danced, sang, etc. We thought it would be a good idea to transmit all the experience and research to other families with children with TS. On September 19th, 2012, the Argentine Association for Tourette Syndrome was created, primarily to inform and educate teachers that our children would not have a bad experience throughout their school years, the most important experience of their growth. AATS is a non-profit association where all is done with the heart and with one's own efforts, besides the collaboration received from professionals attending the conferences. The workshops were declared of Educational Interest by THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AUTONOMOUS CITY OF BUENOS AIRES also BY THE NATIONAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - Commission of Public Health and of Education of the LEGISLATURE of the PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES – and by The National Institute against Discrimination. Our Facebook page includes over 18000 people and there are many countries throughout Latin America. Our purpose is to spread, inform and educate because we believe that children must have a happy education, where they can enjoy going to school and not coming back crying because of lack of information on behalf of teachers, principals, classmates and families.

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