

Motivation letter

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

The main reason why I have decided to apply for a position of the WHFSS board is my high motivation and passion for optimized practices and educational development in the world of hospital sterilization. Since my beginnings as a manager of a sterilization department 5 years ago I have seen how difficult it is to work in this position because it requires a high degree of technical knowledge, organizational knowledge as well as strong soft skills to mobilize common efforts within the sterilization department and in collaboration with other departments. This is a very complex skill set that is difficult to find in any hospital and so almost everyone who starts leading a sterilization department urgently needs support and guidance.

Unfortunately, the information that one gets about what is the right way to reprocess medical devices (best practices) that is available to sterilization nurses in Chile and other South American countries is often incomplete, contradictory or influenced by commercial interests (e.g. excessive use of indicators). That's why early in my career as a CSSD manager I started to search for independent and scientific information on medical device reprocessing.

This motivated me to travel and attend WFHSS congresses where I learned that many practices that are still common in South America have been abandoned and replaced by more modern concepts and practices already many years ago in some European countries. This awakened the passion to also spread this knowledge in my country - which was the main motivation to be a founding member of the INDE (Instituto Nacional de procesamiento de Dispositivos medicos y Esterilización).

For the same reason I am also interested to contribute and take responsibility as a board member of the WFHSS. I have the strong hope that the WFHSS can be a driver of education and "enlightenment" in countries where there is still a lot of confusion, superstition and charlatanism about reprocessing of medical devices.

I believe that I could contribute in this task, especially because of my profound knowledge of sterilization practices and mindsets both in Latin America and in Europe. While still being strongly connected with the sterilization community in Chile (as a member of SPEDCH and as president of the INDE) I currently live in Switzerland for personal reasons. While being in my baby break as a CSSD manager I am using the time and presence in Europe to further deepen my knowledge about practices and their rationales in different EU countries studying literature and visiting congresses and CSSDs.

My presence in Europe could also be beneficial for logistical reasons because it would make it easier for me to attend face-to-face in Europe meetings on a regular basis.

I hope my motivation letter can convince you that I am highly motivated to contribute as a board member of the WFHSS and leave it to your sensitive judgement to assess if my skillset and experience could be valuable to help the organization to achieve its goals during the next years.

Yours sincerely,



Cinthia Vera Fuentes

June 29th 2018

