

**Eduardo L. Franco, MPH, DrPH, FRSC, FCAHS, OC, United States**

### **Candidate Statement**

An IEA member since 1985, I wish to contribute to our society's mission of serving the international community of epidemiologists, particularly via my region, North America. I am fully committed to the IEA's goals of fostering high professional and educational standards, providing a platform for scientific and public health interactions, promoting knowledge transfer, and ultimately contributing to eliminate inequity in the distribution of disease prevention resources and technologies. I believe the strengths of my candidacy hinge on the following arguments:

**Track record as epidemiologist:** Although not formally trained as an epidemiologist, I entered the profession in 1984 after training at CDC in Atlanta and at UNC, Chapel Hill, USA. I have been a cancer epidemiologist during the past 32 years. By every metric, I have made substantial contributions to content and methodological areas. I have a deep understanding of how our profession is perceived by colleagues in other biomedical fields. I have directly mentored more than 100 epidemiologists and clinicians. I am an active member of North American epidemiology societies. I am the Editor-in-Chief of Preventive Medicine and have served in the editorial boards of the American Journal of Epidemiology, Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, eLife, Epidemiology, International Journal of Cancer, and PLoS-Medicine. With my experience as editor and manuscript reviewer I have the duty to assist junior colleagues and early career epidemiologists from non-English speaking countries in navigating the scholarly publication process. I have taught courses on best practices in scientific publishing in several countries.

**Experience in the IEA Council:** I served as elected North America Council member in 2002-05. I left a record of diligence in representing my region and in contributing to IEA's agenda. I began my involvement with the IEA Council in 1999, as Chair of the local organization for the 2002 WCE in Montreal. Montreal-2002 enjoyed the second highest attendance thus far (N=1250) among all WCEs. I am familiar with the IEA governance and have maintained collegial ties with the IEA Council. After I stepped down in 2005, I served in the nominating and congress committees and participated in subsequent Council meetings. I served the IEA again as Member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 18th (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2008) and 20th (Anchorage, Alaska, US) WCEs. I served as IEA representative in 2011-15 at the Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology.

**Vocation as internationally-oriented epidemiologist:** I hold dual citizenship (Canada and Brazil). My career as epidemiologist began in the US but I became committed with the profession in Brazil during my tenure as head of epidemiology at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in 1985-89. In the past 28 years, my professional home has been at McGill University, in Montreal. I have conducted epidemiologic studies across Canada, in Mexico, Brazil, and Africa (Congo). I have taught methodological and substantive epidemiology courses throughout the world. I implemented in Montreal's WCE regional workshops oriented to specific problems and professional interests of each of the IEA regions. This has become a regular programme activity of subsequent WCEs. I was the Scientific Chair for the Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, held in Toronto in 2015.

**Platform:** Professional education, international cooperation, and best practices in scientific communication will be the values I would uphold as Councilor. My ability to communicate well orally and in writing in four languages and my excellent relations with colleagues in all IEA regions would make me an effective ambassador for the IEA as a hub for training young epidemiologists worldwide. I consider with utmost sense of duty the opportunity to serve the IEA as Councilor for one of its most active regions. I pledge to devote my time and energy during my tenure in the Council to further the mission of the IEA and to enhance its role as the most international and all-inclusive of all professional epidemiological societies.