My name is Andrea Bonzini and I am the founder and president of the Argentine Association for Tourette Syndrome.

I have a daughter with tourette who is now a 25-year-old woman and I am a teacher, therefore I know how to fight within the family and within the school in the face of the difficulties that are going to appear with tourette.

This year the association celebrates 10 years, on our anniversary I can see going back years how with diffusion and awareness we were advancing more in Argentina. It costs a lot and will continue to cost but step by step we are moving forward.

Our job is to guide families who present with the logical concerns of seeing that their child begins with tics and nobody guides them, even their pediatrician tells them that this is going to happen, that all children have tics and they refer us to a psychologist, the one who tells us that it is something emotional and it will pass...

All of us who are here know that it is a possibility that this is the case, but we also know that they should know more about the tourette in order to follow up and see the evolution together with the observation and reports of parents and teachers.

We are concerned that teachers do not know what we are talking about when with some tools and resources to use in the class it would be easier for the children to go through their school day. We are also concerned that schools ask families for children to have a therapeutic companion when we know that children with Tourette's are self-sufficient if teachers adapt their teaching methodology with them.

We receive families who, having the diagnosis after a long time of searching, do not know what to do and do not know what we are talking about when we talk about tourette.

Unfortunately, many times the doctors they turn to are not the warmest in that profession and everything happens very quickly, they give them the diagnosis, a medication and... see you next month.

As parents, receiving the news that your child has a neurological disease or condition that still has no cure is very difficult to understand.

From the association we contain them, we tell them what it is like to live with the tourette at home and in the family.

We guide parents to see the right professionals, who know what they are talking about and who do not charge them a fortune.

We guide them to get the cud to be able to face the expenses of therapies and medication.

Now, I wonder, before in our country there was a medication that was excellent for tics, a few years ago it no longer has a license for Latin America, it was not expensive and effective.

Now there is a medication that is not as effective for tics and is so expensive that families cannot afford it.

Curious right?

Our main objective is that children go through their school stage enjoying the day to day and not suffering from it.

For this reason we train teachers and fight day by day in dissemination and awareness.

We have a lot of support from the media, radio, television, every year we go to different programs to raise awareness.

Another project that is under way for this year is a BILL to decree NATIONAL TOURETTE SYNDROME DAY on May 22, which is the anniversary of the death of Gilles de la Tourette.

For June 7 International Tourette's Day in the City of Buenos Aires, the government illuminates different historical monuments in turquoise to raise awareness.

Many of our talks and trainings were declared of provincial or national interest by the legislature and by the ministries of education of the place where they were held.

Our association is non-profit and the different medical professionals who participate do so honorably since our members do not pay any fee.

I have been doing everything by heart for many years while working all day at school.

I invite you to see our work on the facebook page, Argentine Association for Tourette Syndrome.

During the pandemic, meetings began to be virtual and we continue with the same method since we can reach all countries.

Luckily we reach populations from many Spanish-speaking countries and we can exchange experiences and knowledge.

I deeply appreciate your attention.

Let's spread the Tourette!

Professor Andrea Bonzini

The Argentine Association for Tourette Syndrome was founded in 2012 for awarness in school and the whole society, in addition to provide guidance to families with a recent diagnosis and support families and children who have TS in Argentina.

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FBK: https://www.facebook.com/asociacionargentinasindromedetourette/?ref=bookmarks

Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/user/ASTouretteArg