

Juan Fuertes

Born on 12 July 1965
Lives in Madrid, Spain

Education and professional experience

Juan Fuertes holds a Degree in Arabic and Islam from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He worked at the Spanish Embassy in Damascus, Siria and the Spanish Commercial Office in Dubai after finishing his studies until he went back to Madrid in 1991. In 1992 he did his civil service at the Spanish Red Cross at the Refugees and Asylum Seekers' desk and he decided to devote his professional carrier to humanitarian issues. He continued at the Spanish Red Cross until he joined the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) where he stayed from 1995 to 2009. During his time at the ICRC he was Deputy Head of Delegation in South Africa and Sudan and Head of Mission in Madagascar. He also had extensive training on International Humanitarian Law (in Geneva, CH) and Human Resources (in Lausanne, CH). In 2010, Juan Fuertes joined the pulmonary hypertension community as Coordinator for the National PHA (Spain) and soon after he joined PHA Europe until he took a full time position in 2015.

Patient advocacy training and experience

Right after Juan started to work for pulmonary hypertension groups he decided to attend specific training for rare diseases in general and pulmonary hypertension in particular. He regularly attends workshops both for training and for policy making purposes. He also prepares other patient advocates to take responsibilities in the advocacy arena. When he joined the Spanish PH association he proposed and organized the celebration of the first World PH Day, which took place in Madrid in 2012, whose ownership has now been taken, as intended, by the international PH patients' community. WPHD is the most important awareness and advocacy event and tool for the PH patient organizations.

PHA Europe positions

Juan started to cooperate with PHA Europe in 2011 and gradually he got more involved until he was offered the position of Advocacy and Access Manager in 2015. He is often invited to represent PHA Europe and the European PH Patients' community at European events.

Patient advocacy affiliations

- Member of the DITA, Drug Information, Transparency and Access task force of the European Rare Disease Organization (EURORDIS), 2013-
- Member of the Board of EPF, European Patients Forum, 2015-
- Member of the Steering Committee of the Access Working Group of the EPF, European Patients' Forum, 2015-
- Cooperates with the PACT, Patients Access Partnership (multi-stakeholders group composed of patients, Members of the European Parliament, pharmaceutical Industry, physicians), 2015-present
- Member of the Council of the ELF, European Lung Foundation, 2014-
- Founder of the International Patients Advisory Committee (2015) and the Advocacy Working Group within ELF, European Lung Foundation, 2016
- Advisor for the Latin PH Society President, 2012 -

Languages

Spanish native speaker, fluent in English and French, knowledge for basic conversation in Italian and Arabic