

San Jose, October 3, 2024

Sirs.  
Nomination Committee  
World Federation of Science Journalists

Dear members of the Nomination Committee,

I am reaching out to you to submit my candidacy to be a board member of the World Federation of Science Journalists and represent the region of Latin America.

For over 25 years — my entire professional life — I have devoted myself to science journalism. I have worked as a writer and editor of a national newspaper — *La Nación*, in Costa Rica (1999-2014) —, as a freelancer for international publications, and as an editor for science publications for the Spanish-speaking audience — *Scientific American en español* (2014-2017) and *Knowable en español* (2022-present).

The journey has not been easy. I had to find a space for science stories in a newspaper and a country — Costa Rica — that did not have a tradition of covering such topics. Often it could be a lonesome journey, but, with time, I added other journalists to the science beat at the newspaper, and found my community of fellow science journalists abroad, in neighboring and faraway places, through the World Federation of Science Journalists.

And though many years have passed, and luckily, I believe there are more science journalists in the Latin American region now, many can still feel alone. Alone in their newsrooms or freelance workspaces and lost in looking for ways to learn the tools of this beautiful craft.

I believe the World Federation of Science Journalists can fill those voids. I have had the privilege of getting to know science writers from across the Americas throughout the years and learned about their distinct and multiple needs.

I hope that as a board member of the World Federation of Science Journalists I can make those needs heard, and develop programs and projects to address them, as well as the needs of science journalists worldwide.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Best regards,

  
Debbie Ponchner