

Member Profile: Prof. Dr Jefferson G Fernandes

Prof. Dr. Jefferson Gomes Fernandes is a neurologist with experience in medical and health education, scientific research, management, and digital health innovation, including telemedicine and telehealth. He is Vice President of the Brazilian Association of Telemedicine and Digital Health (ABTms), Coordinator of the Telemedicine Education Program for Physicians of the Medical Association of São Paulo (APM), Brazil, and Coordinator and Professor of the GIS MBA (focused on health management and innovation), IBCMED, São Paulo. Dr Fernandes is member of the Digital Health Committee of the Brazilian Medical Association (AMB), Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Global Summit Telemedicine & Digital Health, an international annual meeting held by APM, and also Editorial Board Member of Telehealth in Medicine Today, USA. In addition to ISfTeH he is member of the American Association of Telemedicine (ATA) and of the Brazilian Academy of Neurology (ABN). Dr Fernandes is CEO of SPECIS, a health consulting firm providing consultancy for several companies and startups in the field of digital health.

Dr. Jefferson was Superintendent of Education, Science and Innovation of the German Hospital Oswaldo Cruz – HAOC (2010-2018), São Paulo, and founder and Director-General of its School of Health Education and Sciences (FECS), the Institute of Health Education and Sciences (IECS), and the Technical School of Health Education (ETES). He was also the Director of the HAOC’s Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth. One of the telemedicine programs he had organized and coordinated was the “TeleStroke Program for Brazilian Public Hospitals”.

He was the founding Director of the Institute of Education and Research (IEP) of the Hospital Moinhos de Vento in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul (2003 to 2010), having developed a Postgraduate Health Education Program for physicians and allied health professionals certified by the Brazilian Ministry of Education.

He also held a position of Professor of Neurology (1995 to 2012) at the School of Medicine of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). At PUCRS he was one of the founders of its Telehealth Program. Two main projects of this Program were “Teledermatology in the Brazilian Amazon Region” and “Telesurgery for Medical Education”, the latter involving also medical students from Poland, Estonia and Lithuania.

He also worked as temporary consultant for the World Health Organization (Geneva), for the World Bank (Washington), for the Brazilian Ministry of Health (Brasília) and for the Health Secretary of the Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil.

Dr. Jefferson Fernandes graduated in Medicine in 1978, at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and did his medical training first in Neurosurgery and then in Neurology, the latter at the Institute of Neurology, University of London, England. He has an MSc in Neuroanatomy and a Doctoral degree in Clinical Medicine both at UFRGS. He also did a postgraduate course in Hospital Administration and Health Business (IAHCS/PUCRS) and MBA with focus in Strategic Management and Information Technology, at Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV).

In addition to his research work in neurology in clinical trials, as PI and National Coordinator, and in epidemiological studies, Dr Fernandes has lectured in national and international scientific meetings, published in several scientific journals, written chapters in medical books and published articles in magazines for the lay public. Among the themes of such activities were neurology, neuroepidemiology, telemedicine, telehealth and digital health.

In 2016, Dr Jefferson was awarded with the “100 Most Influent People in Health” prize in the “Health Innovation” category, in São Paulo, Brazil.

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