



LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY CHARTER

Purpose

The LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY - LAMPS will seek to find sustainable solutions to grow a robust and stable capacity for metabolic profiling in Latin America, that includes, but is not limited to: joint-institution training camps, continent-wide collaborative projects, sharing of experiences and practices relevant to Latin America and unified participation in international networking activities.

LAMPS Goals

The LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY will help identify, herald and address the issues that make metabolic profiling studies in Latin America challenging for researchers and laboratories.

THE CHALLENGES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

CHALLENGE 0) ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUALITY

As in other regions of the world, strategies must be implemented to ensure accessibility and equality to all scientists and clinicians.

CHALLENGE 1) INSTRUMENT CHOICE

Latin America does not currently produce the research equipment required to fulfill metabolomic research, thus instrumentation has to be imported. Although Latin America is a growing research market, it is still very small when compared to the central nations of research, meaning that only a few companies/vendors have their own representatives in Latin America, and sometimes do not offer coverage across all countries.

CHALLENGE 2) ACCOMMODATING VARIABILITY IN PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL CLIMATES

Research is unfortunately not a priority in the majority of Latin American countries, as reflected by the budget dedicated to science and innovation. This systematic underfunding impacts negatively on the science policies, mainly resulting in a lack of



stable priorities and long-term investment strategies. This is a major obstacle to building a robust and sustainable research infrastructure in our region.

CHALLENGE 3) RESTRICTED MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

In the same vein, much more could be done by Ministries of Science to improve the importation process of research equipment. As a result, the purchase of research equipment and consumables is more expensive and takes more time than it should. Typically, both importation and nationalization processes increase the price of capital equipment by 30% to 200%, and a simple replacement or maintenance kit or consumables may take 3 to 6 months to purchase.

CHALLENGE 4) OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE AND DATA REPOSITORIES

The access to resources behind paywalls is a major obstacle for underfunded researchers. This includes fee-for-access publications, datasets or any database or software that is under a commercial license. The same limitation applies to publishing in the higher quality “fee for publishing” journals (necessary for researchers to obtain and maintain visibility in the international science community). Interestingly, Latin America is not a leading actor in open science and open data movements. On the contrary, the systematically underfunded Ministries of Science lag behind their counterparts when it comes to negotiating national agreements or drafting new open policies that would ultimately benefit their researchers.

CHALLENGE 5) CORPORATE RECOGNITION OF THE BENEFITS OF SUPPORTING RESOURCE-LIMITED LABORATORIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Latin American research market is not attractive enough for vendors and manufacturers to offer competitive support according to the different requirements, such as delayed payments schemes, corporate discounts and maintenance strategies that would effectively compensate for the lack of coherent national policies.

CHALLENGE 6) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE

The high upfront cost of setting up a metabolic profiling infrastructure led to the concentration of equipment and skilled researchers in a handful of international hubs. These hubs are attractive for new talented researchers allowing for sustainable formation programs, i.e., a balanced inbound and outbound flow of researchers whose contributions outweigh the efforts required to train them. Conversely, Latin American “hubs” send their researchers abroad for training and then struggle to match operative conditions in the lab. While this leads to a constant transfer of skills, which is positive, it also increases the pressure to match the experimental conditions, and leaves no



possibility to build a national critical mass. Altogether this adds to the costs of running a facility in Latin America.

Expected outcomes

The society will be considered a success if:

- The LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY enables partnership with international organizations with similar views and goals.
- The LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY conducts joint training events on a regular and periodic basis.
- The LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY provides useful information to its members on a regular and periodic basis.
- The LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY facilitates joint research projects involving several laboratories that are part of the society.
- The LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY attracts vendor support to improve access to resources.

Terms of membership

Membership to the LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY is free. Each year, during the general assembly, new candidates will be presented and endorsed by the assembly (half + 1 vote). In order to get endorsement, a candidate must first demonstrate their interest in the society (online form). Endorsement is valid for a period of two years.

For members, attendance of the general assembly automatically renews the endorsement for a two-year period. Members that fail to attend two consecutive general assemblies will have to reapply for candidacy.

Members can resign from the LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY at any time (online form).

Founding members are granted a permanent membership. Founding members represent the signatories of this charter.

Governance

The governance of the LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY is provided by the general assembly.



General assembly

The general assembly will be held each year before April 1st. The assembly can be held virtually. It requires the participation of at least one third of the members.

If one third of the members of the general assembly fail to attend, the meeting will be postponed and rescheduled.

The operation of the LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY is provided by the operative board of representatives.

Board of trustees

The board of trustees has seven seats. The seven representatives must be chosen in a way that reflects the diversity and relative presence of participating countries, whenever possible.

If possible, at least three seats will be allocated to founding members.

Board members are elected (highest number of votes first) by the general assembly for a period of 3 years. In case of a vacancy, an extraordinary election may be held virtually (online form). It is the responsibility of the assembly to ensure that the elected board of representatives adheres to the principles of diversity expressed above. In any case, it requires at least the half + 1 votes to be elected.

Veto

Two thirds (6) of the founding members can oppose a decision of the operating board of trustees. This opposition must be justified and communicated to all the members of the operating board of trustees and to the members during the next general assembly.

Amendment to this charter

Amendments to this charter can be proposed by the board of trustees and submitted to the vote of the general assembly. It requires the majority of votes from at least two thirds of the members. If the general assembly fails to approve the amendment (because less than two thirds of the members are present) an online consultation can be instigated by the board of trustees.

Roles and Responsibilities

Members

Members agree to uphold the constitution of the Society and to promote its goals and objectives.



Members agree to share information relevant to the goals and objectives of the Society including but not limited to training courses, conferences, funding opportunities, new databases, and shared manufacturer and distributor agreements.

Members agree to participate in the activities of the Society.

General assembly

Members agree to uphold the constitution of the Society and to promote its goals and objectives.

Members agree to participate in the annual general meeting.

Members will vote to elect new members of the community to the Board of Trustees as appropriate.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees will elect a chairman for the next general assembly at the end of each annual general assembly.

The Board of Trustees will seek to resolve and manage any conflicts arising between members, factions or institutes of the Society.

The Board of Trustees will choose the location and management of the annual General Assembly.

The Board of Trustees will coordinate and execute the communication strategy of the Society.

The Board of Trustees will determine and coordinate the dates and organisation of Society events, including but not limited to Society training courses, annual conferences, online workshops.

The Board of Trustees will manage alliances and agreements with other societies and networks.

Communication

LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY members will be informed of meetings through email or via the website, depending on his/her preference, at least one month prior to the meeting.



Conflict Resolution

When an issue arises that cannot be easily resolved, LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY members agree to delegate conflict resolution to the General Assembly.


Election to the Board of Trustees


The founding members will constitute the Board of Trustees during the first three years.

Members of the Society will be eligible for election to the Board of Trustees after two years of membership of the LATIN AMERICAN METABOLIC PROFILING SOCIETY.

January, 31 2021

The signers and thereby founding members:

Julien Wist, Universidad del Valle, Colombia..... 


Elaine Holmes, Murdoch University, Australia / Imperial College, UK.. 

Alejandro Vila, PlaBEM, IBR-CONICET, Rosario, Argentina..... 

María Eugenia Monge, CIBION-CONICET, Argentina..... 

Mónica Cala, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia..... 

Pablo Ariel Hoijemberg, CIBION-CONICET, Argentina 

Martin Arán, FIL-IIBBA-CONICET, Argentina..... 



Paula Burdisso, PlaBEM, IBR-CONICET, Rosario, Argentina.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paula Burdisso', written over a dotted line.

Guillermo Moyna, Universidad de la República (UdelaR), Uruguay

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guillermo Moyna', written over a dotted line.

Ian Castro-Gamboa, IQ-UNESP, Brazil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Castro-Gamboa', written over a dotted line.