Connections to Sustain Science in Latin America

June 30, 2021

The Connections to Sustain Science in Latin America program
Daniel Placht, Associate Program Officer, NASEM

Hurdles facing science in the Americas
Dr. Jeremy McNeil, Co-Chair, Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences

Challenges faced by ECRs in LAC and how programs from academies of science and young scientists organizations could have a positive impact
Dr. Sandra Lopez, Global Young Academy Member and Senior Health Researcher, Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies

Promoting science outreach in Brazil - Serrapilheira Institute, a small private experiment
Hugo Aguilaniu, Director, Serrapilheira

Hay interpretación simultánea en español.

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Background

- The significant issue of underfunded basic research and support in Latin America due to unfavorable political, economic, and health circumstances
- Developed out of discussions with the Latin America Academy of Sciences, as well as the June 2020 NAS-led G-Science statement of 15 Academies of Science on Basic Research
- The critical nature of broad basic research as the foundation of sustainable development

Objectives

- Enhance access to current cutting-edge science for graduate students and young researchers in Latin American countries and increase the scientific dialogue and knowledge exchange among them;

- Encourage and strengthen scientific collaboration and the transfer of techniques and approaches across disciplines, and networking within and beyond the region;

- Equip young scientists, engineers, and medical professionals to assume leadership roles in their fields and beyond;

Program Structure

- Three year program
  - Working with scientific academies in LAC, United States, and Canada
- Science Clearinghouse Mechanism
  - (ACAL)
- Capacity Development Workshops and Frontiers Symposia
  - (NASEM)
- Advisory Committee of Senior Scientists

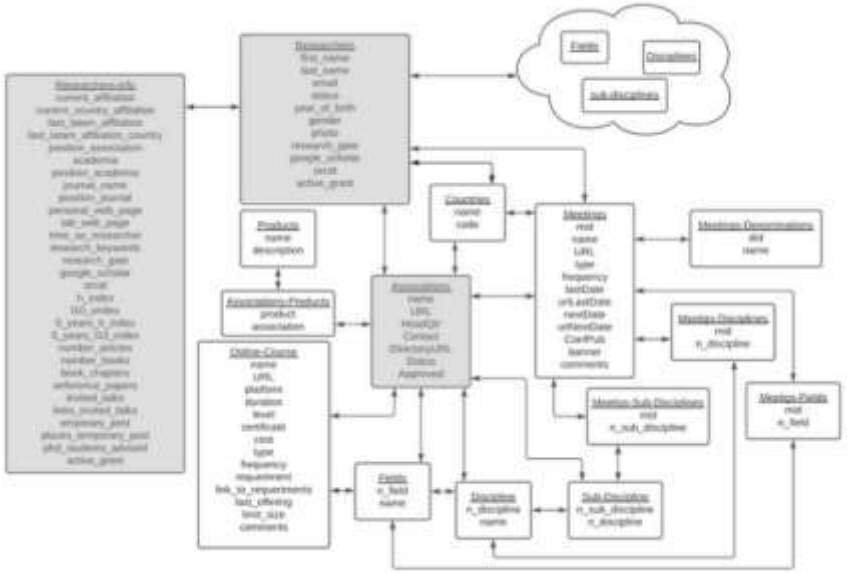
Science Clearinghouse Mechanism

- A catalog of science courses, seminars, lectures, conferences, and webinars in the region that are accessible online
- A searchable database of the resources, as well as researchers in their respective fields
- Explore certification in partnership with regional universities and institutions

Photo by Kaboompics .com from Pexels

Science Clearinghouse Mechanism

- A one-stop shop for publicly-available institutional scientific resources in the region: “the shopping mall” of the science in Latin America
- Powerful metrics and indicators
- Dynamic
- Self-sustainable
- Open and free access



Frontiers Symposia and Capacity Building Workshops

- Three capacity-building workshops for early-career researchers in LAC countries
  - Focus on science communication and proposal writing

- Two Frontiers virtual symposia
  - Transdisciplinary approach to cutting-edge research
  - Organized around five plenary sessions
  - Driven and organized by a committee of outstanding early career researchers
  - All selected participants in the Frontiers workshops will be invited to present their research in poster sessions and will have the opportunity to apply for funding for exchange visits (planned)

Advisory Committee

- Provide overall advice on direction of program and its implementation
- Advise the direction and subject matter of capacity building workshops
- Advise on the focus of Frontiers workshops
  - Nominate committee members and participants
  - Suggest relevant topics for workshop plenary sessions
  - Provide suggestions on structure of workshop

Committee Members

Name	Affiliation	Country
Hernan Chaimovich	IQUSP	Brazil
Anthony Clayton	University of the West Indies	Jamaica
Elva Escobar	ICML UNAM	Mexico
Luis Fernando García	Universidad de Antioquia	Colombia
Jorge Huete-Pérez	University of Central America	Nicaragua
Douglas Massey	Princeton	United States
Jeremy McNeil	Royal Society of Canada	Canada
Patricia Miloslavich	Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research	Venezuela
Mónica N. Orozco Figueroa	Fundación Desarrolla Guatemala para la Salud y la Educación	Guatemala
Giselle Tamayo-Castillo	Consejo Nacional para Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnologicas	Costa Rica
Heriberto Tapia	UNDP	United States/Chile
Roberto Williams	National Academy of Exact, Physics and Natural Sciences of Argentina	Argentina

Next Steps

- Fall capacity building workshops on science communication
- Planning for the first Frontiers symposium
- Complete post webinar survey
  - Personal interests and capacity building priorities
  - Recommendations for Frontiers symposia
  - Interest in the beta clearinghouse mechanism

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