

LAOHA NEWSLETTER

1st semester 2025

Dear colleagues and members of the LAOHA community,

I'm delighted to share this edition of our newsletter, marked by important advances in our mission to strengthen oral health in Latin America and the Caribbean. The first few months of 2025 have been intense and full of achievements.

Our participation in events such as the **42nd CIOSP** in São Paulo and the **ADELAC Congress** in Colombia reaffirmed our commitment to continuing education and the dissemination of knowledge in line with the realities of the region. In April, we held a strategic meeting of the Board of Directors, aligning **Vision 2030** and consolidating pillars such as scholarships, education, organizational structure and strategic alliances.

One of the recent milestones was the launch of the public consultation of the **Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health**, during the **FDI Regional Congress** in Costa Rica. With the support of partners such as FDI and COHI, we mobilized representatives from health ministries and promoted an important Intersectoral Forum.

We also continued to promote initiatives aimed at humanized care. The opening of the **Sensory Dental Room at FOU SP**, in partnership with Colgate-Palmolive, represents a breakthrough in the care of people with ASD.

With the “**Get Togethers**”, our scholars have strengthened bonds and received emotional support - especially those who are far from home. It was also a time to welcome **Paula Yunes**, a new PhD scholar from the Dominican Republic.

We also celebrated the success of our educational campaigns on **World Oral Health Day**, **Gum Health Day** and **International Nursing Day**, with content that values the role of health professionals in promoting well-being.

Each of these actions is only possible thanks to the commitment of our network. Thank you to everyone who walks with us on this mission. Let's keep connecting purposes and expanding access to oral health in our region.

Long live LAOHA! Cheers to everyone!

Happy reading!



Dr. Cassiano Rösing
President of LAOHA

♦..... Participation in Congresses♦

LAOHA at CIOSP 2025

The 42nd edition of the **São Paulo International Dental Congress (CIOSP)** took place between January 22 and 25, 2025. The annual event attracts a large audience of dental professionals, students, and researchers from Brazil and other countries. This year, the event welcomed over 70,000 attendees.

During the congress, **LAOHA** was present with the participation of members of the board of directors and collaborators in research projects at the **Oral Health Arena** organized by **Colgate-Palmolive**. Professors **Marina Helena Gallottini**, **Cassiano Rösing**, **Cristina Villar**, and **Fabio Sampaio** led presentations on relevant topics such as dental care for patients with special needs, the scenario of periodontal diseases and conditions in Latin America, chemical control of periodontal conditions, and caries prevention and health promotion in socially vulnerable areas.

LAOHA values participation in conferences such as CIOSP to increase awareness of the actions and projects we support. Teachers, researchers, and members of our Cariology and Periodontics groups enriched the scientific debate and reinforced LAOHA's commitment to promoting evidence-based oral health, contributing to the dissemination of up-to-date knowledge and strengthening quality dental practices throughout Latin America.



♦..... Participation in Congresses♦



Participants at the ADELAC Congress in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

ADELAC Congress

From May 5 to 7, the **XXIX Annual Assembly of the Association for Dental Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (ADELAC)** of the Union of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUALC) took place in the city of Bucaramanga, Colombia. LAOHA and ABENO co-participated in the event, strengthening ties between dental teaching institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Professor **Fabio Sampaio**, a member of LAOHA's Cariology group and a full professor at the Federal University of Paraíba, together with professors **Viviana Ávila** and **Angie Sanabria** from Universidad El Bosque in Colombia, presented actions 2 and 3 of the Call for Action related to LAOHA's Cariology Consensus.

The Consensus is focused on the teaching of cariology in Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries, underlining LAOHA's dedication to promoting high-quality and relevant dental education throughout the region. Check out the photos from the event and access the Cariology [group's publications](#) and e-books on the LAOHA website, available in Portuguese, English and Spanish.



In the photo, from left to right:
Viviana Ávila (Univ. El Bosque, LAOHA, Colombia), Vânia Fontanella (ABENO, CRO-RS, Brazil), Daniela Carcereri (UFSC, ABENO, Brazil), Martha Liliana Rincón (Univ. Santo Tomás, Colombia), Angie Sanabria (Univ. El Bosque, Colombia) and Fabio Sampaio (UFPB, ABENO, LAOHA, Brazil).

♦..... Participation in Congresses♦



Participants at the FDI Regional Congress in San José, Costa Rica.

Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean during the FDI Regional Congress - Costa Rica

As part of the **Regional Congress of the International Dental Federation (FDI)**, held on May 15-17 in San José, Costa Rica, three important events were held on the **Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean**, an initiative of LAOHA, in partnership with the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI) and previously consulted with international associations such as IADR-LAR, LARO and FOLA.

CONSULTA A REPRESENTANTES GUBERNAMENTALES DE SALUD ORAL DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y CARIBE

PARTICIPANTES
8 países
14 participantes
4 expositores
6 LAOHA-COHI



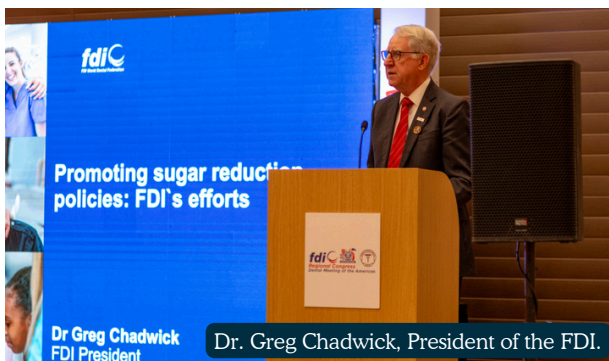
LAOHA
Latin American Oral Health Association

COHI
Caribbean Oral Health Initiative

1 VIRTUAL MEETING WITH ORAL HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Oral health representatives from the Ministries of Health of **8 Latin American and Caribbean countries** took part, contributing their knowledge and experience for two hours to improve the Declaration.

♦..... Participation in Congresses♦



Dr. Greg Chadwick, President of the FDI.



Dr. Cassiano Rösing and Dr. Mauricio Montero.

2 INTERSECTORAL DECLARATION CONSULTATION FORUM

In the afternoon, the **Intersectoral Forum** was held with the active presence of professionals from different health disciplines and different sectors, such as professional associations, academia and health services. This session was opened by the president of the FDI, **Dr. Greg Chadwick**, who accompanied the entire activity, which in addition to the different presentations on the Declaration's consultation process, included an interactive consultation dynamic on the most relevant recommendations, in which those present were able to express their opinion.



Dr. Cassiano Rösing at the launch of the public consultation of the Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health.

3 DECLARATION CONSULTATION OFFICIAL LAUNCH

At the end of the day and at the opening ceremony of the Congress, the official launch of the [Declaration's Public Consultation](#) which is available in the LAOHA's website, where more than 6,000 people will be able to review the document and express their opinion.

◆..... Commemorative dates◆

World Oral Health Day

To celebrate this year's **World Oral Health Day**, LAOHA brought together leading experts from the region at an event led by Dr. Juan Antonio Cepeda. The meeting was attended by Dr. Xiomara Giménez, Dr. Mauricio Montero, Dr. Elaine Pagán-Ortiz, and Dr. Paola Carvajal to discuss the challenges facing Latin America in the prevention of caries and periodontal disease.

The debate focused on strategies to reduce the prevalence of these diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean, in line with current World Health Organization guidelines. Among other important aspects, the interrelationship with other health professionals was highlighted as a way to jointly help control systemic conditions that are linked to oral diseases.



Access the recording of the meeting on our [YouTube channel](#).



“ Artificial intelligence and new technologies are arriving with force, and it would be very timely to see how to treat and reduce the occurrence of oral diseases through early detection and with the help of these new technologies... ”

Dr. Mauricio Montero

Watch an excerpt from the meeting on our [Instagram profile](#).

Commemorative dates

World Gum Health Day

On May 12, as part of the celebration of **Gum Health Day**, LAOHA published a video-podcast on gum health in Latin America and the Caribbean. A dialog based on three of the chapters of the **Regional Periodontal Consensus**, **focused on the prevalence, the burden of periodontal disease, the diagnosis and treatment of periodontal disease.**

Four experts from different Latin American countries: Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, provided scientific support for the importance of taking gum health into account in the daily practice of all dental professionals, whether they are generalists or specialists.

Access the recording of the meeting on our [YouTube channel](#).



“ We must emphasize how crucial prevention, correct diagnosis and timely treatment are, because these are what will allow us to achieve gingival and periodontal health. ”

Dr. Xiomara Giménez

International Nursing Day

On the occasion of the celebration of **International Nursing Day** on May 12, LAOHA brought together a group of experts in nursing and dentistry for a video-podcast on the importance of oral health in systemic health and **the role of nursing professionals in oral health care in Latin America and the Caribbean**, both from an academic, professional and scientific point of view.

The president of FEPPEN (Pan American Federation of Nursing Professionals), **Dr. María Concepción Chávez**, the Dean of Nursing at the Universidad Científica del Sur (UCS) in Peru, **Dr. Doris Gonzales**, the Dean of Dentistry at the UCS, **Dr. Claudio Peña**, and **Dr. Lupe Salazar**, Professor of Dentistry at the University of Panama and member of the LAOHA Board of Directors, also participated.

Access the recording of the meeting on our [YouTube channel](#).



Institutional

Virtual meeting of LAOHA's Board of Directors

In furtherance of **LAOHA's Vision 2030**, on April 16 the members of the Board of Directors met to set goals on the main action fronts:

- **Doctoral scholarship** programs at high-quality universities in the region;
- The **continuing education strategy** to broaden the knowledge of the entire dental profession and other health professions;
- The planning of its organizational structure to achieve **greater coverage in all Latin American and Caribbean countries**;
- Finally, the **consolidation of networks and strategic alliances** in favor of better oral and systemic health for the region's populations.

“ This virtual meeting provided the ideal framework for advancing the development of LAOHA's Vision 2030, based on the contributions of the Board of Directors' working groups, which will serve as pillars for the Strategic Plan that will make it possible. ”



Dr. Cassiano Rösing
President of LAOHA



Academic community



XXVII FOUSP Research Meeting

The XXVII Research Meeting and XXIV Scientific Initiation Seminar of the USP School of Dentistry (FOUSP), an annual event that brings together lectures and presentations of scientific work by undergraduate and graduate students, took place from May 19 to 22, 2025. During the event, **Aldrin Mendoza** and **Raysa Alvarez**, LAOHA and COHI scholarship holders, presented work developed during their doctoral studies and were awarded prizes, a recognition we are very proud of.

From left to right: LAOHA board member Mohamed Hassan, Raysa Alvarez and Aldrin Mendoza at the awards ceremony.

Inauguration of the Sensory Dental Room at FOUSP

LAOHA and Colgate-Palmolive have signed an agreement with the USP School of Dentistry (FOUSP) to renovate a space in the Special Patient Care Center (CAPE), coordinated by Prof. Dr. Marina Gallottini, to care for patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The SOS ASD Project now has a sensory dental room, inaugurated on February 6, 2025, to provide a more humanized therapeutic experience, sensitive and adapted to the needs of patients with ASD and other disabilities, minimizing the anxiety and discomfort often associated with dental procedures. In this new space, CAPE also offers training for dental surgeons to adequately attend to the particularities of the ASD population.



Inauguration ceremony of the Sensory Dental Room at FOUSP.

Scholars



“The Get Togethers are a welcome and joyful respite from the intense routine of graduate school. More than just meetings, they are moments between friends, filled with laughter and fun, with lots of collaboration, culture and rich exchanges of experiences.”

Rebeca Pedra's testimonial



Encounters for life

LAOHA is pleased to promote "get togethers", regular meetings for interaction between the fellows, going beyond formal academic get-togethers. We have already held two get-togethers this year, in January and March, and plan to schedule more throughout the year. These moments reaffirm LAOHA's commitment to the well-being of students, especially during this period when they are away from their families and friends to attend graduate school. The get together aims to offer these lighter, more **welcoming moments of conviviality and to strengthen the bonds of friendship.**



Scholars

New scholarship student, Dr. Paula Yunes

Dr. Paula Massiel Yunes Fragoso, from the Dominican Republic, is LAOHA's new doctoral student and scholarship recipient. She will pursuing her PhD in Periodontics at the **University of São Paulo's School of Dentistry**, under the mentorship of **Prof. Dr. Cláudio Mendes Pannuti**. Paula has actively participated in important initiatives in the field of periodontics, and as an active collaborator with the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI), Paula sees the opportunity at USP as a way to *"learn from internationally renowned experts and acquire the essential tools to drive research and improve oral health in her country."* **Welcome!**



“ Undoubtedly, an opportunity to learn from internationally renowned experts and acquire the essential tools to boost research and improve oral health in my country. ”

Find out more about LAOHA:

Visit our website: www.laoha.org.br

Get in touch: contact@laoha.org.br

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