

# LAOHA NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2025

## EDITORIAL

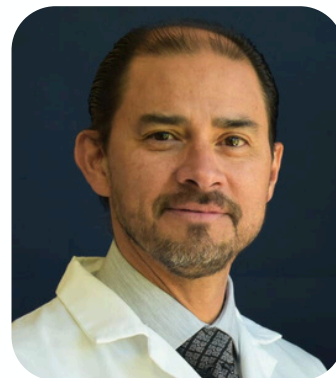
By Dr. Amaury Pozos-Guillén

It is a true honor to present the second-half 2025 edition of our newsletter. This has been a period of consolidation, gathering, and, above all, a confirmation of our commitment to a shared vision: **moving forward to achieve a healthier, fairer, and more integrated region concerning oral health.**

A key milestone was the official launch of the Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in September at the 42<sup>nd</sup> SBPqO Annual Meeting in São Paulo, Brazil. Participating in this ceremony was a privilege, marking the achievement of a collective, inclusive project built by academics, institutional leaders and government authorities, all committed to **oral health as a human right and a foundation for sustainable development.**

The Declaration outlines a path for turning its recommendations into real policies and actions that can improve the lives of millions across the region. Its strength comes from the collaborative process that shaped it, involving ministries of health and academic and professional associations, guided by **LAOHA**. Its impact continues to grow, with presentations in international forums in Bolivia and Brazil encouraging professionals, academics and policymakers to join this movement to **integrate oral health into public policy**. The Declaration, available in three languages, thus reaffirms its purpose for the regional dialogue and its call to action.

Dr. Amaury Pozos-Guillén  
Member of the LAOHA  
Board of Directors



This initiative reinforces the belief that promoting **oral health must go beyond dentistry** and be embraced in an interdisciplinary way from primary care onward, as an essential part of overall health and a key element of people's well-being throughout their course of life.

Equally important was the momentum gained for new strategic partnerships, such as the **training project in oral health for nursing teams and community health workers** in Peru, developed together with the Universidad Científica del Sur and shared with the Peruvian Ministry of Health and professional organizations, the Nursing Council and the Dentistry Council, both located in Lima.

LAOHA's participation in the Meeting of the Colombian Association of Dental Faculties (ACFO), in Cartagena, Colombia, where the results of the Latin American and Caribbean Periodontics Consensus were presented by Dr. Andrés Duque and the experience of Dr. Gloria Ramírez as a former LAOHA fellow, demonstrates the **strengthening of academic networks and**

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**consolidates our region, which unites to think and act for the oral health of our communities.**

LAOHA fellows represented the association at international congresses, such as the 103<sup>rd</sup> IADR/PER General Session in Barcelona and the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual SBPqO meeting. Each participation reflected academic excellence and commitment to community well-being.

The LAOHA **Get Together**, held in September, reaffirmed that knowledge multiplies when it is shared. In this space, **PhD candidates and fellows discussed their projects and future visions, strengthening the ties of latin american scientific cooperation.** We also had the valuable participation of COHI (Caribbean Oral Health Initiative), represented by its Vice President Ninoska Abreu-Placeres, and fellow Raysa Alvarez.

On September 4, the LAOHA Board of Directors, under the leadership of its president, Dr. Cassiano Rösing, worked on consolidating the 2030 Strategic Plan, a document that will guide our actions in research, education, knowledge networks, and contribution to public health. It was my first time participating in this Board, a **highly enriching experience that allowed me to note the maturity, vision, and commitment that distinguish LAOHA as a regional benchmark association.**

In parallel, LAOHA celebrated **World Cavity-Free Future Day**, observed on October 14, with a regional dialogue among three experts. The central focus of the forum was the Consensus for Cariology

Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Doctors Stefania Martignon (Colombia), Fábio Sampaio (Brazil), and Olivia Espinoza (Mexico) shared **experiences and reflections on the progress and challenges in training future Dentistry professionals.**

Their message was clear and powerful: **"Only through collaboration between universities and institutions will we be able to reduce the prevalence of dental caries, the most common chronic disease in the region, and thus build a truly caries-free future for our communities."**

In the same spirit, during November, LAOHA, in collaboration with COHI, took part in educational sessions and activities for **World Diabetes Day**, raising awareness among all health professionals about the strong connection between oral health and systemic health, under the theme "Healthy Mouth = Healthy Body." **These sessions were aimed at patients, nurses, physicians, and dentists, with the goal of providing tools for comprehensive care and overall well-being for people living with diabetes.**

Declaring together means building the future of oral health in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Happy reading!

**Dr. Amaury Pozos-Guillén**  
Member of the LAOHA Board of Directors

## Regional initiatives



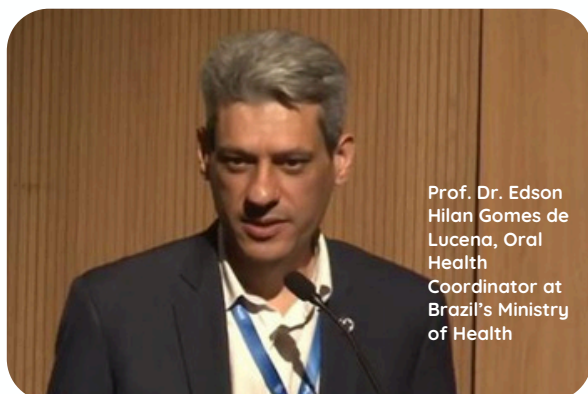
From left to right: Dr. Cassiano Rösing, Dr. Gabriel Sánchez, Dr. Ninoska Abreu-Placeres, Prof. Dr. Edson Hilan Gomes de Lucena, Dr. Saul Paiva, Dr. Ivana Prado, Dr. Carlos Benítez, Dr. Bernal Stewart, and Dr. Marcelo Bönecker.

### Official Launch of the Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean

Event hosted at the 42<sup>nd</sup> SBPqO Annual Meeting



Dr. Cassiano Rösing,  
President of LAOHA



Prof. Dr. Edson  
Hilan Gomes de  
Lucena, Oral  
Health  
Coordinator at  
Brazil's Ministry  
of Health

On September 6, during the **42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Dental Research (SBPqO)**, the official launch of the **Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean** took place. This initiative is led by **LAOHA** together with key partners such as the **Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI)**, the **Latin American Section of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR/LAR)**, and the **Latin American Dental Federation (FOLA)**.

The event was attended by Prof. Dr. **Edson Hilan Gomes de Lucena**, Oral Health Coordinator at Brazil's Ministry of Health; COHI Vice President Dr. **Ninoska Abreu-Placeres**; and IADR/LAR President Dr. **Gabriel Sánchez**. They joined the President of LAOHA Prof. Dr. **Cassiano Rösing** and several authors for the ceremonial signature of the declaration.



## Regional initiatives

### Official Launch of the Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean

Prof. Dr. **Carol Guarnizo-Herreño** and Prof. Dr. **Fábio Sampaio**, authors of the declaration, took part in the event remotely, delivering virtual presentations on the key aspects of the document. Likewise, Dr. **Mauricio Montero**, representing the World Dental Federation (FDI), an organization that played a crucial role in completing the Declaration, also participated remotely with a message of support for the initiative.

The launch was met with great enthusiasm due to the document's clear relevance and strong foundation as the Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Dr. Gabriel Sánchez,  
President of IADR/LAR



Dr. Marcelo  
Bônecker,  
author and  
ceremony host.



Dr. Ninoska Abreu-Placeres,  
author and Vice President of COHI



Dr. Ivana Meyer Prado, author



Dr. Saul Martins Paiva, author

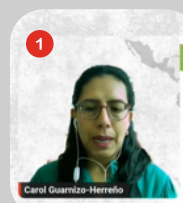


Dr. Carlos  
Benítez,  
Executive  
Director of  
LAOHA

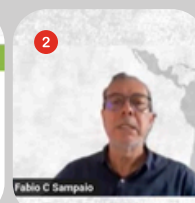


Dr. Bernal  
Stewart, Executive  
Director of LAOHA

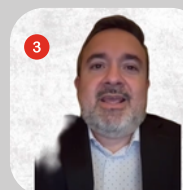
### Joined remotely:



Carol Guarnizo-Herreño



Fábio C Sampaio



The authors, Dr. Carol Guarnizo-Herreño (1) and Dr. Fábio Sampaio (2), together with the FDI representative, Dr. Mauricio Montero (3).



Watch the full event on our  
[YouTube channel.](#)



## Regional initiatives

### Strengthening the **Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### Sharing the Document Across Latin America

LAOHA was present at important scientific and professional gatherings in October 2025. Dr. **Marília Cabral Cavalcanti** represented the association at the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the IADR – Bolivia Section** on October 10, followed by Prof. **Fábio Sampaio**, who carried LAOHA's message to the **30<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Pediatric Dentistry Congress** on October 18.

The sessions highlighted the historical process behind the Declaration, including initial debates, public consultation, and final recommendations, stressing the urgent call to bring oral health into wider public health strategies.



Dr. Marília Cabral Cavalcanti



Prof. Fábio Sampaio

#### A united movement

We reaffirm our commitment to implementing the **Regional Declaration for the Advancement of Oral Health in Latin America and the Caribbean**, working to turn its recommendations into concrete actions.

Our main goal is to **expand the visibility and impact of the Declaration** by bringing it closer to health professionals and educators, public policy makers, community leaders, and the general public.

LAOHA believes that **together we can turn the Declaration's guidelines into real actions** that create a positive and lasting impact on oral health across Latin American communities.



The document is available in **Portuguese, Spanish, and English**. Visit the [LAOHA website](http://www.laoha.org) to learn more and share it!

## ..... Educational projects .....

# Oral Health Training for Nursing Professionals and Community Health Workers

Alliance between LAOHA and Universidad Científica del Sur in Lima, Peru

**Training nursing professionals and community health workers** was one of the key milestones of 2025 in the strategy of the **Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA)** to promote oral health as an essential part of overall health, especially within primary health care.

The support offered by the **Universidad Científica del Sur** (Lima, Peru) was essential in making this initiative a reality. It took shape as a **free, virtual, modular** training program designed to bring oral health knowledge to nursing teams and community health workers. The course, titled **“Oral Health for Nursing Professionals and Community Health Workers,”** has already reached more than 60 nursing professors and aims to serve as a model for similar initiatives.

### A week of intense activities

Between September 8 and 13, several activities were carried out at the Universidad Científica del Sur headquarters to advance and strengthen the project. The activities included:

- **Focus group sessions** with professors from the Nursing and Stomatology programs at Universidad Científica del Sur;
- **A strategic meeting at the Ministry of Health of Peru** with key representatives from the oral health sector;
- **The official launch of the course** with the presence of a large group of nursing faculty members;
- **A project briefing symposium** with the academic community and representatives from national Dentistry and Nursing associations.



Focus Group with Nursing Professors from Universidad Científica and LAOHA Members.



Working group at Peru's Ministry of Health.

Representatives from the Ministry of Health of Peru, including **Dr. Marlon Tenorio Anicama (Director of Oral Health)**, **Dr. Antoanet Quevedo Casquero (Technical Team of the Oral Health Directorate)**, and **Dr. Blanca Távora (National Lead for the Child Life Stage)**, welcomed LAOHA Executive Directors Bernal Stewart and Carlos Benítez to discuss the project in depth and explore future collaboration with national oral health and child life-course plans.



## Educational projects

### Oral Health Training for Nursing Professionals and Community Health Workers



Introduction of the course "Oral Health for Nursing Professionals and Community Health Workers" at the Universidad Científica del Sur Symposium in Lima, Peru.

The closing symposium, held on September 13, marked the most important moment of the week. The event brought together the academic community and key institutional representatives, including **Mag. Carlos Enrique Paipay Quispe, Dean of III Lima Metropolitan Regional Council of the College of Nurses of Peru**, and **Dr. José Ricardo Rojas Rueda, Dean of the College of Dentists of Lima**, who expressed their support and enthusiasm for the initiative.

### Workshop with Nursing Professors from Universidad Científica del Sur



Throughout the week of activities, an in-person workshop was held with over 60 nursing professors at one of the university sites. The hands-on format allowed participants to explore the course in depth and get ready for the virtual version.

### Next Steps

With the success of the activities carried out, the project is expected to grow even stronger with the support of professional organizations and the Ministry of Health of Peru, establishing this model as a regional reference for other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Dr. Carlos Paipay, Lima Regional Director of the Peruvian Nursing Council



## ◆..... Knowledge in focus .....◆

## LAOHA Celebrates World Cavity-Free Future Day with a Regional Expert Dialogue

On **World Cavity-Free Future Day**, celebrated on October 14, LAOHA hosted a **regional dialogue** with experts focused on the **cariology consensus and its perspective on teaching cariology in Latin America and the Caribbean**.

The meeting brought together three regional leaders: Dr. **Stefania Martignon** (Colombia), Dr. **Fabio Sampaio** (Brazil), and Dr. **Olivia Espinoza** (Mexico).

In this **special video podcast**, the professors shared experiences and perspectives from different countries and institutions, highlighting the importance of improving the training of future dental professionals across Latin America and the Caribbean.



**“ Health must be recognized as one of these key needs: keeping the patient healthy and reducing the chance of tooth decay. ”**

**Dr. Stefania Martignon**

During the discussion, specialists highlighted **how important it is for universities in the region to work together** to ensure that new dentists acquire the knowledge and skills needed to prevent and manage dental caries, the most widespread chronic disease across all ages and social backgrounds.




In this way, LAOHA reinforces its dedication to education, science, and international cooperation toward a future free of caries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**CALL FOR ACTION**  
Quinta edição

**CURRÍCULOS DE CARIOLOGIA NA REGIÃO:  
DO CONSENSO À PRÁTICA CLÍNICA**

**14 DE OUTUBRO**  
**19h (Brasil - GMT-3)**

**Especialistas convidados:**

 <b>Dr. Stefania Martignon</b> Professora titular de Cariologia da Universidade El Bosque e Diretora da UNICA (Colômbia)	 <b>Dr. Fabio Sampaio</b> Professor titular de Cariologia da Universidade Federal de Paraíba (Brasil)	 <b>Dr. Olivia Espinoza Vázquez</b> Professora e pesquisadora na Faculdade de Odontologia da UNAM (México)
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LAOHA WHO UNAM



Watch the full conversation with experts on our [YouTube channel](#).

## Knowledge in focus

### National Day for the Fight Against Smoking: raising awareness about how tobacco use affects oral health

On August 29, Brazil's National Day for the Fight Against Smoking, Professor **Claudio Mendes Pannuti**, Full Professor of Periodontics at FOUSP, shared important messages through videos created in collaboration with **LAOHA**.

Professor Pannuti emphasized: ***“Many people are aware of the negative effects of smoking on heart and lung diseases, among others. However, few realize the harmful impact of smoking on oral health.”*** These effects include greater bone loss around teeth and a higher risk of tooth loss.

The main goal of this initiative was to **strengthen awareness among dental professionals** and reinforce the understanding that **smoking** is not only a threat to overall health but also a direct **risk factor** for oral health.



Check out the post on [our social media](#).



### Launching the “Connect Your Health 2025” contest on World Diabetes Day

On November 14, for the **World Diabetes Day**, the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI) joined LAOHA to launch the student contest **“Connect Your Health: Healthy Mouth = Healthy Body.”** The aim was to inspire students from health areas like medicine, dentistry, and nursing to create a short reels-style video clearly showing how oral health relates to overall health and helps raise awareness. Students from **11 Latin American countries** took part, **submitting a total of 37 videos**.

See the video with the 3 winners [HERE](#).

## Knowledge in focus

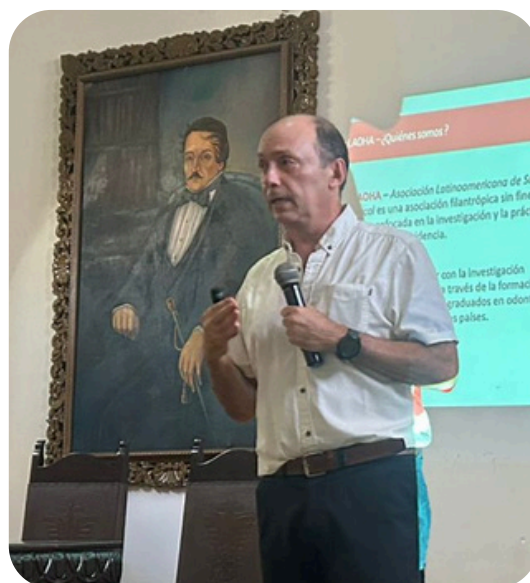
# Periodontics Consensus: sharing essential recommendations

Presentation of the Periodontics Consensus during the ACFO Annual Research Meeting

During the **Annual Research Meeting of the Colombian Association of Dental Schools (ACFO)**, held in Cartagena, Colombia, LAOHA had the opportunity to present the results of the **Latin America and Caribbean Periodontology Consensus** to academics and faculty members from various universities across the country.

The session offered a **space for dialogue and scientific exchange**, where **Dr. Andrés Duque** shared essential recommendations for teaching and research in Periodontology, reinforcing the consensus' integrated and regional approach.

The discussion marked another important step toward strengthening an ACFO-led project aimed at **engaging and coordinating with all Dental Schools in Colombia**, enhancing academic collaboration and becoming a reference model for Latin America and the Caribbean.



Dr. Andrés Duque during his lecture at the ACFO Annual Research Meeting in Cartagena, Colombia.

Visit: [Periodontics Consensus](#)



**Periodontics Consensus:** evidence-based publications tailored to the reality of Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen periodontal health.

Available in 3 languages!





## Research support

# Commitment to oral health in the region by supporting research and Latin American talent

LAOHA Awards honor and support researchers across the region

## Awards at the 42<sup>nd</sup> SBPqO Annual Meeting

LAOHA, in partnership with **Colgate-Palmolive**, took part in presenting two highly relevant awards during the 42<sup>nd</sup> SBPqO Annual Meeting. Here are the winners:

**LAOHA-Colgate Award for Clinical Research Support**, granted to Aurélio de Oliveira Rocha as the lead author of the study *Clinical evaluation of occluso-proximal restorations using polyethylene fibers in primary molars: a randomized clinical trial*.

**LAOHA-Colgate Award for Internationalization Advancement**, granted to Angelo José Sócrates Torres Carrillo as the lead author of the study *Micro-CT analysis of the filling of perforating internal resorptions in different root thirds – a study using 3D replicas*.



LAOHA-Colgate Award for Clinical Research Support



LAOHA-Colgate Award for Internationalization Advancement



## Award at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual IADR Meeting – Bolivia Session

The **LAOHA Award Future of Latin American Dentistry** was presented to dental student Daniel Monroy Ardaya for his research, “Effects of Music Therapy to Reduce Stress in Patients Undergoing Dental Anesthesia,” during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the IADR, Bolivia Section.

**“ [...] this project required a great deal of effort, but we’re thrilled to have found a solution to a common issue that many people don’t always know how to address. ”**

**Daniel Ardaya**, honored with the LAOHA Award “Future of Latin American Dentistry” during IADR Bolivia

## Research support

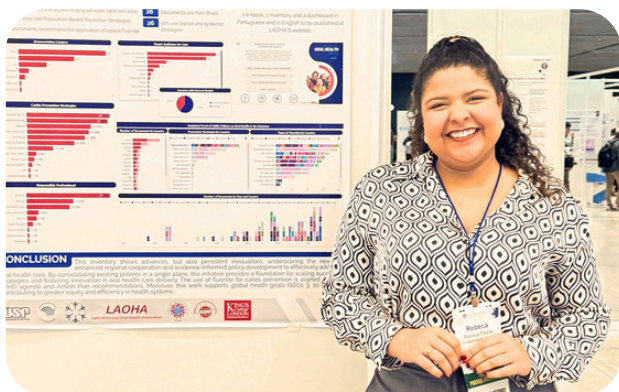
# Commitment to oral health in the region through support for research and Latin American talent

## LAOHA scholars participate in national and international conferences

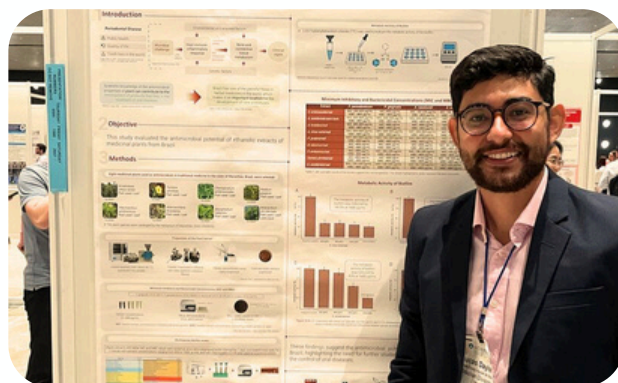
At LAOHA, we believe that scientific progress happens when talented people have the opportunity to shine. That's why we support and encourage our fellows and researchers to participate in scientific events and congresses across the globe, enhancing their training and broadening the visibility of regional research.

We are honored to recognize our fellows' presence at key Dentistry events: in June 2025, **Rebeca Pedra** and **Lucas Daylor** presented their projects at the **103<sup>rd</sup> IADR/PER General Session** in Barcelona; and in September, **Aldrin Mendonza** and **Paula Yunes** presented their doctoral studies at the **42<sup>nd</sup> SBPqO Annual Meeting** in São Paulo.

Seeing our young researchers share knowledge and build networks that strengthen Latin American science reaffirms our belief that **supporting talent transforms the future of oral health in the region**.



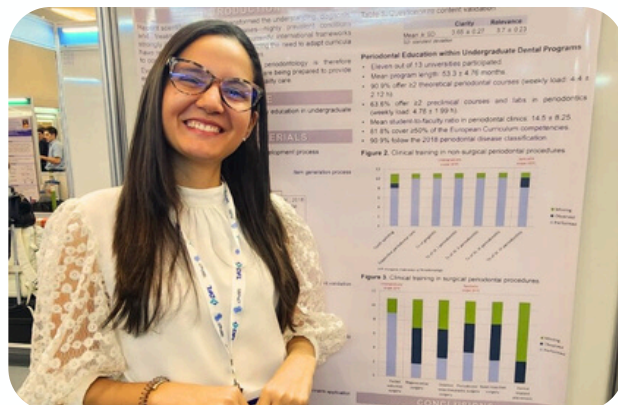
Rebeca Pedra, PhD candidate from University of São Paulo, at the 103<sup>rd</sup> IADR/PER General Session in Barcelona



Lucas Daylor, PhD candidate from University of Guarulhos, at the 103<sup>rd</sup> IADR/PER General Session in Barcelona



Aldrin Huamán Mendoza, PhD candidate from University of São Paulo, at the 42<sup>nd</sup> SBPqO Annual Meeting



Paula Yunes, PhD candidate from University of São Paulo, at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual SBPqO Meeting



## Research support

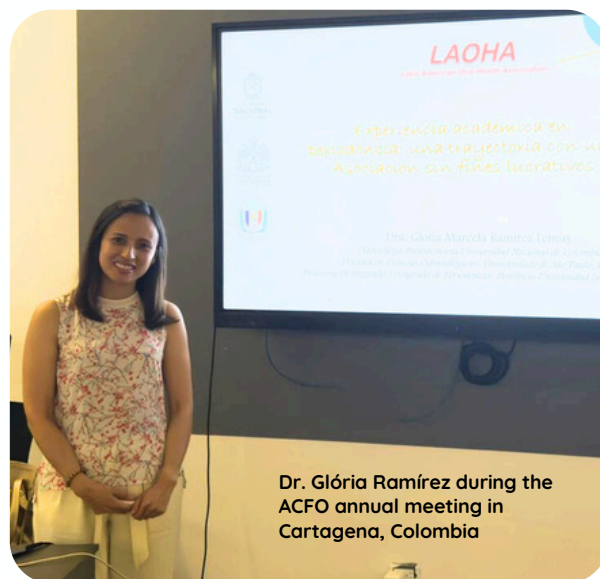
### Dr. Glória Ramírez: inspiring future dentists

During the **Research Groups Meeting in Dentistry**, held as part of the event organized by the **Colombian Association of Dental Schools (ACFO)**, **Dr. Glória Ramírez** was the special guest invited to share her career journey with participating students.

Dr. Ramírez, a former LAOHA scholarship recipient, completed her doctorate in São Paulo, Brazil, with support from the LAOHA scholarship. She shared her academic, professional, and personal experiences, inspiring young dentists interested in scientific research.

The meeting provided a meaningful space for dialogue, where students were able to learn firsthand about the opportunities offered by LAOHA's doctoral scholarship program and the training possibilities in Brazilian institutions, internationally recognized for their excellence in dental research and education.

**LAOHA reaffirms its commitment to fostering the development of new talent** and strengthening Latin American dental research, building bridges that transform lives and advance science in the region.



Dr. Glória Ramírez during the ACFO annual meeting in Cartagena, Colombia

**“ The presentation given by Dr. Ramírez, on behalf of LAOHA, offered valuable inspiration for our students during the XXXV ACFO International Research Meeting. ”**

**Dr. Francina Escobar.**  
Research Area Advisor – ACFO



Dr. Glória Ramírez with a group of students interested in research during the ACFO meeting in Cartagena, Colombia



## Research support



### Building bonds and academic excellence

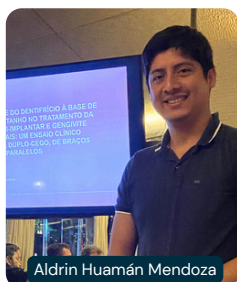
**“ Get Togethers are truly meaningful moments for me. The chance to connect with colleagues, learn about their projects, hear from their experiences, and support one another makes each gathering add something valuable to our academic journey. ”**

Testimonial from **Raysa Alvarez**,  
PhD candidate at FOU SP and COHI fellow

The **Get Togethers** are regular meetings organized by LAOHA with PhD candidates. Their purpose is to strengthen interaction among fellows in a dynamic, collaborative, and inspiring environment.

In this edition, participants shared their academic journeys and presented an overview of their ongoing research projects, sparking rich and productive conversations on a variety of topics.

We were also honored by the presence of **COHI**, represented by fellow **Raysa Alvarez** and vice president **Ninoska Abreu-Placeres**, whose contributions enriched the discussions and broadened the perspectives of the meeting.



Aldrin Huamán Mendoza



Rebeca Pedra



Paula Yunes



Lucas Daylor Aguiar



Raysa Alvarez



## Board of Directors



### Strategic meeting focused on the 2030 vision

On September 4, the **LAOHA Board of Directors (BOD)**, led by its president, **Dr. Cassiano Rösing**, and Executive Directors **Dr. Bernal Stewart** and **Dr. Carlos Benítez**, held a workshop to consolidate the **2030 Strategic Plan**. This plan is based on the 2030 Vision, developed and defined throughout the year by LAOHA.

BOD members actively took part in work groups to define concrete actions across the Association's main areas: **Research, Education, Knowledge Networks, and Contributions to Public Health**, focused on oral health in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Find out more about LAOHA:**

**Visit our website:** [www.laoha.org.br](http://www.laoha.org.br)

**Contact us:** [contact@laoha.org.br](mailto:contact@laoha.org.br)