

ACS Omega: Writing a New Chapter in a One-Hundred-Year-Old Partnership between Latin America and the American Chemical Society

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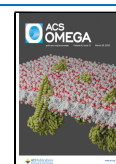
It has been one hundred and eleven years since the first paper that involved contributions from a Latin American institution, the Continental-Mexican Rubber Company, was published in an ACS Publications journal in 1912.¹ Fourteen years later, in 1926, Colombian Professor G. Jaramillo became the first Latin American-based researcher to publish an article in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* as a corresponding author on a method to determine organic nitrogen.² Since then, several notable milestones have been achieved, in almost a century of close and fruitful interactions between Latin American scientists and the American Chemical Society, including the publication of more than 26,000 articles from authors in the region in ACS journals spanning almost all fields of chemistry and its interfacing areas. ACS Publications journals have received, published, and promoted science from every cadre and corner of the continent, from early to midcareer researchers, to prominent scientists, and even the Nobel Prize winners Luis Federico Leloir (Argentina) and Mario Molina (Mexico), the former renowned for his contributions to understanding the mechanisms behind galactosemia and lactose intolerance³ and the latter for the elucidation of the role and impact of chlorofluorocarbon gases on the Earth's ozone layer.⁴ The ever-increasing influence of Latin American chemists in offering solutions to open and global challenges and advancing new frontiers is undeniable as they strive to consolidate robust national scientific systems. Over the past decade alone, corresponding authors from Latin America have contributed about 8,000 articles to ACS Publications journals that have garnered more than 122,000 citations (>15 citations per article). An evaluation of these works using InCites highlights a remarkably high proportion of collaboration, 72%, domestically and internationally. These figures speak volumes of the scientific culture in Latin America, i.e., a collaborative spirit, innovative with impactful ideas, producing high-quality research¹. In 2021, an analysis conducted by the Institute for Scientific Information (Clarivate) shared encouraging information and metrics from the region, notably on the growth and incorporation of new research topics, increased citations for publications, and a system with well-established international collaborations.

Within this thriving context, the American Chemical Society has been engaged in this empowered dynamic by actively participating, promoting, and sponsoring numerous national and international events organized by universities and research institutions in the region. ACS Publications has brought its

free, flagship outreach ACS on Campus program to multiple institutes and countries in Latin America. Since 2020 alone, it has brought its program to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador. This initiative dedicated to helping students advance their education and careers is conducted in Spanish and Portuguese to further ACS' mission and vision globally, i.e., to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for improving all people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry. The ACS, via this program, has brought several leaders in chemistry to the region to provide tips for publishing and communicating science and provided resources for career development to enhance its partnership with the region's student and research community. In recent times, a series of Science Talks have been delivered by renowned scientists in Spanish. In addition, ACS, with the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations, has been proud to promote gender equality in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in Latin America and to highlight the impact of diversity on scientific research in the field of chemistry, by conferring the Latin American Women in Chemistry Awards in three categories (Emerging Leader in Chemistry, Leadership in Academia, and Leadership in Industry).

Since its launch in 2016, ACS Omega started writing a new chapter in this success story of Latin American research and its relationship with ACS, attracting the attention of this community and becoming, in the last five years, the top journal for publishing content from that region in the entire ACS portfolio. So far, around 650 articles from Latin American researchers as corresponding authors have been published, with more than 100 accruing 15 or more citations. In this regard, the participation of multiple researchers based in Latin America that serve on the Editorial Board of ACS Omega and are embedded in the fabric of the journal must also be regarded as a key component of the journal's success in the region. These researchers include our Senior Editor, Prof. Frank Quina, Associate Editor, Prof. Carolina Horta Andrade, and Topic Editor, Prof. Martina Costa Reis, along with Annia


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Galano, Heloisa de Oliveira Beraldo, Watson Loh, Mónica C. Gonzalez, Norberto Peporine Lopes, Maria Valnice Boldrin Zanoni, Claudio J. A. Mota, Cátia Ornelas, Daniel H. Murgida, Coralia Osorio Roa, Hafiz M. N. Iqbal, and Angel Leiva Campusano, representing Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Mexico on our Editorial Board.

In 2022, eminent scientists from across Latin America were invited to share their research and results on a broad spectrum of topics with *ACS Omega*. As a part of this coordinated effort, *ACS Omega* has now put together a representative selection of that content in this special collection, titled “A *Vista on Research Excellence from Latin America*”, featuring 35 papers (<https://pubs.acs.org/page/acsodf/vi/acsomega-latam-vista>). Of these, 14 are authoritative review articles, while 21 report original and insightful results on the following frontier topics: sensors, peptides, applied biochemistry and biophysics, soft matter, thermodynamics, synthesis and reaction conditions, conventional energy sources, food chemistry—and more. The fully open access content in this Virtual Issue is intended to call the attention of researchers in Latin America and beyond in these emerging fields and place a spotlight on researchers who are representative of these countries.

ACS Omega is committed to witnessing first-hand and delivering on the dream of Latin American scientists in seeing the positive impact of their research on both their People and the Planet. We openly invite all of you to embrace this endeavor, take advantage of this commitment, and rely upon *ACS Omega's* recognized established high editorial and peer-review evaluation standards and author-centric approach to [publish and promote your science](#).⁵ We conclude with the words of Nobel laureate in Literature, Mario Vargas Llosa, and take this wisdom on board to inspire the mission of current and future generations of Latin American scientists: “*Because ours will always be, fortunately, an unfinished story. That is why we have to continue dreaming, reading, and writing, the most effective way we have found to alleviate our mortal condition, to defeat the corrosion of time, and to transform the impossible into possibility*”.⁶

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<https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acsomega.3c01437>

Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

¹Data obtained and analyzed using InCites for articles published in ACS Journals from 2013 to 2022 with the corresponding author from Latin American countries.

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