

## Latin-Ibero-American Network on Alternative Methods

The Latin-Ibero-American Network on Alternative Methods was an initiative discussed during the Workshop on Alternative Methods for Vaccines, held at the Congress on Pharmacology of Vaccines (VACCIPHARMA 2012), in Cayo Santa María, Cuba. In that moment, delegates from Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, United States of America and The Netherlands agreed creating a Regional Network on 3Rs. The initiative was brought into discussion again during the COLAMA 2012, suitable framework for providing opportunities to meet more people and establishing a moment in Latin America for discussion and encouragement about this field. The Regional Network was officially constituted at October 22, 2013, in the 20th Latin American Congress on Pharmacology and Therapeutic, in La Habana, Cuba. The constitution counted on the participation of 22 representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Cuba. The meeting was headed by Dr. Marcelo Asprea (Argentina), Dr. Idania Rodeiro and Dr. Mario Landys Chovel (Cuba).

The Latin-Ibero-American Network on Alternative Methods is organized aiming to group several sub-regional networks, researchers and organizations, as the Argentinean Network on Alternatives (Aacytal), the Uruguayan Network on Alternatives (Aucytal), the Chilean Network on Alternatives (Asochital), the Brazilian Society on Alternative Methods to Animal Experimentation (SBMAlt), the Cuban Group and Spanish researchers involved in the development and implementation of alternative methods.

The Latin-Ibero-American Network on Alternative Methods is focused on all fields on alternative methods and aims the promotion of 3R (reduction, refinement and replacement), encouraging the implementation of international validated alternative methods and the development and validation of new methods. The main objectives of the Network are to reinforce our strengths and to overcome our weaknesses by means of the experience exchange and the scientific collaboration, the provision of courses and trainings, the participation in proficiency and interlaboratory validation studies and the management of platforms of projects fully focused on Alternatives for Pharmaceuticals and Biological products, as well as for Cosmetics, Food and Chemicals. For the time being, the Network has as priorities the definition of its statements, its working structure and an Action Plan, as well as the involvement of funding bodies interested in the development and implementation of Alternatives in Latin-America.

The first event organized by the Latin-Ibero-American Network on Alternative Methods will be the 2nd Latin American Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing in the Education, Research and Industry (COLAMA 2015), to be held in July 5-9, 2015, in Meliá Marina Varadero Hotel, Varadero beach, Cuba.