Achievements and Challenges

This year, I officially finished my second term as president of the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA). It has been four years of learning and personal dedication to this initiative, in order to build solid pillars and to achieve the goals initially planned.

We have achieved results far beyond those initially dreamt of. This journey would not have been possible without the collaboration of Dr. Bernal Stewart, with his vision and leadership; my vice president, Prof. Magda Feres, and chair members with their enthusiasm, and technical and scientific support; Dr. Zilson Malheiros with his management and administrative skills. Last but not least, Colgate-Palmolive – Technology Center, for the necessary financial support to carry on this program.

I was delighted to have become the first president of LAOHA. The association is hosted in Brazil: at University of São Paulo (USP) and Guarulhos University (UNG). As head of the periodontal department at USP, former president of the Brazilian Society of Periodontics and the Brazilian division of IADR, I could support this initiative by helping shape it into a legal entity, which was of paramount importance for the project to operate in accordance with the Brazilian legal system and to create the “personality” of the association.

I leave the LAOHA Board of Directors feeling fulfilled. I will be replaced by Prof. Cristina Villar as of November 2020. Prof. Villar is a member of my team at the university. I wholeheartedly believe she is an extremely competent and committed professional. She will have the support of the vice president Prof. Cassiano K. Rösing and other members of the board, who will be announced in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Colgate-Palmolive for the trust and confidence placed on our work along these years. I shall remain backstage supporting this program. I hope this program will become an example worldwide.

Yours sincerely,
LAOHA New Board of Directors (2020-2022)
by Dr. Cristina Villar

LAOHA General Assembly was held on September 25th, 2020, in order to examine, discuss, and approve our annual report and our 2021 activities. Among the topics on the agenda, was the election of the new Board of Directors, who will serve for a term of 2 years, from November 2020, through November 2022.

The election results were:

- Cristina Cunha Villar and Cassiano Kuchenbecker Rösing were elected as President and Vice President respectively;

- Six members of the previous Council were reelected;

- The other members of the Board will assume specific responsibilities based on their experience and interest.

We are proud to announce the newly elected Board members, who will hold office for the 2020-2022 term:

Cristina Cunha Villar: President
Cassiano Kuchenbecker Rösing: Vice President
Juliano Cavagni: 1st Secretary
Luciana Saraiva: 2nd Secretary
Cláudio Mendes Pannuti: 1st Treasurer
Luciene Figueiredo: 2nd Treasurer
Marcelo Bönecker: Tax Advisor
Bruno Bueno Silva: Tax Advisor
Belén Retamal-Valdes: Tax Advisor

On behalf of LAOHA, we would like to thank all the former members of the Board for their contribution and commitment, particularly Dr. Giuseppe Romito and Dr. Magda Feres for their effort to develop and strengthen the association and, most importantly, to achieve excellence in dental research. Although they are no longer on the Board, we hope they will continue to be active members of LAOHA.

Directors
Dr. Cristina Cunha Villar
Dr. Cassiano Kuchenbecker Rösing
Dr. Juliano Cavagni
Dr. Luciana Saraiva
Dr. Claudio Mendes Pannuti
Dr. Luciene Figueiredo

Tax Advisors
Dr. Marcelo José Strazzeri Bönecker
Dr. Bruno Bueno Silva
Dr. Belén Retamal-Valdes
IN MEMORIAM
by Dr William De Vizio and Dr. Magda Feres

Tony Volpe
1932 - 2020

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Tony Volpe on October 8.

Dr. Anthony Volpe was the definition of a visionary. Long before the concept of globalization became more widely known, Dr. Volpe was building an unprecedented global network in dentistry. He truly believed that dentistry was a fraternity and regardless of where one practiced the profession, we were all united by a common thread to improve oral health around the world. He spent much of his career reaching out to peers in other countries, not only to mentor them in clinical research, but to truly learn and better understand their culture. His humility caused him to treat everyone with equal respect. It did not matter if they were just starting out and looking to learn from the master himself or if they were a world renowned expert. To Tony, everyone was important, and everyone was a friend.

For all of us, engaged in Clinical Research, Tony was a role model. He has had an important role in improving the clinical research methods and led pioneer studies using new indices to measure calculus (the Volpe-Manhold Index), plaque and gingivitis. A simple conversation with Tony at a meeting or at Colgate Technology Center was always inspirational. Besides his particular wise view about the importance of globalizing clinical research, he always found a way to highlight one's best qualities and to make us feel special. He will be always warmly remembered by his co-workers, students and colleagues as a thoughtful researcher and a generous human being.

One of his most significant contributions to furthering the concept of a global dental community was when he convinced the American Dental Association that quality research was not limited to the US. He was the first to engage dentists from Latin America to conduct and publish clinical studies in their countries that would be submitted to obtain the coveted ADA Seal. Tony visited dental schools on all continents and was world renowned for his expertise in clinical research. He remained a teacher throughout his career at Colgate mentoring dentists, and any employee, who wanted to know more about oral health. Global Oral Health owes a huge debt to this giant of a man. He had a passion for life and learning that will always endear him in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Tony was predeceased by his beloved wife Marlene. Memorial donations can be made in Tony’s name to the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.
1st Regional Consensus on Cariology
by Dr. Marcelo Bönecker

Our mission statement is to develop an action plan focused on prevention and control of caries in Latin America and Caribbean. Under this theme, LAOHA partnered with FOLA (Federación Odontológica Latinamericana) and organized the first Regional Caries Consensus in the region - Dental caries prevalence, prospects, and challenges for Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The virtual consensus took place on November 10th, 2020, and gathered approximately 100 leaders and experts of the oral health profession, members of international, regional, national dental associations, and regulatory bodies for dentistry.

According to Dr. Fábio Sampaio, the consensus coordinator, the event represented an important milestone not only for cariology but also for the different areas of dentistry, such as pediatric dentistry and public health. He said: “Caries is a complex disease; however, it can be prevented since dentistry encompasses techniques and strategies which can help control it individually or collectively. The successful experiences in the Caribbean as well as the regional challenges should be aligned and shared in order to promote caries control in groups at different ages in this region. I truly believe the first step led us to a better understanding of caries prevalence and etiology in different countries within the region. The initiative helped us further increase our understanding of dental practice potential to face caries and its consequences in years to come in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The consensus programming comprises five panels as follows:

**Chapter 1** - Dental caries experience and its impact on oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) in Latin American and Caribbean countries - Dr. Saul Paiva - Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

**Chapter 2** - Risk factors for dental caries in Latin American and Caribbean countries - Dr. Stefania Martignon - El Bosque University, Colombia

**Chapter 3** - Community interventions and strategies for caries control in Latin American and Caribbean countries - Dr. Antonio Pedro Ricomini Filho - State University of Campinas, Brazil

**Chapter 4** - Management of dental caries lesion in Latin American and Caribbean countries - Dr. Amaury de Jesús Pozos-Guillén - San Luis Potosi University, México

**Chapter 5** - Dental caries prevalence, prospects, and challenges for Latin America and Caribbean countries: A summary and final recommendations from a Regional Consensus - Dr. Fabio Sampaio – Federal Univ of Paraíba, Dr. Marcelo Bönecker – University of São Paulo, and Dr. Nigel Pitts – King's College, London
Each panel was presented and discussed by oral health experts:

• 30 authors from more than 13 different countries;
• Around 100 collaborators;
• 36 associations representatives, organizations, and CDOs (Chief Dental Officers) from 26 countries.

**Next steps:**

• Publication of 5 scientific articles in an international dentistry scientific journal;
• Creation of infographics and other communication materials;
• Development of local activities in order to make the consensus recommendations known in Latin America and Caribbean.

This event is just the beginning. It is one of the numerous initiatives which LAOHA and regional associations have been developing towards the commitment to the reduction of caries prevalence in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

**Organizing committee:**

- **Dr. Fábio Sampaio** - University of Paraíba
- **Dr. Marcelo Bönecker** - University of São Paulo
- **Bernal Stewart** - LAOHA/ Colgate-Palmolive
- **Zilson Malheiros** - LAOHA/ Colgate-Palmolive
- **Carlos Benitez** - LAOHA/ Colgate-Palmolive
The Iberopanamerican Periodontal Federation (FIPP) is the most important periodontal association in the Latin American region, comprising Periodontal and Implant Dentistry associations from 14 countries. The FIPP meeting would have taken place in Quito (Ecuador) this year. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person programming for 2020 was suspended. As an alternative, to continue with this important event for the region, the organizing committee decided to turn the congress into a virtual event. Therefore, people from different parts of the world would be able to participate, despite these challenging times.

Given the scenario, LAOHA teamed up with Colgate-Palmolive and established a partnership with FIPP in order to sponsor a series of webinars, which would update professionals on relevant dental topics and leverage the cooperation among the stakeholders. This partnership resulted in five webinars with 7500 subscribers from the entire Iberopanamerican region. The FIPP virtual congress was deemed a great success, with more than 40,000 subscribers. All activities were simultaneously translated into Portuguese and Spanish.

We would like to congratulate Jonathan Meza, LAOHA scholar, for presenting one of his projects with a poster titled “Root coverage using a coronally advanced flap in combination with acellular dermal matrix or connective tissue graft”.

The following events were sponsored by LAOHA and Colgate:

**Oral health challenges: Periodontitis as a chronic non communicable disease** - July, 2020  
- Speakers: James Collins (Dominican Republic), Jorge Gamoral (Chile), David Herrera (Spain), Giuseppe Romito (Brazil), and Magda Feres (Brazil)

**Infection control and biosecurity in the private practice** - August, 2020 - Speakers: Giuseppe Romito (Brazil) and Claudio Pannuti (Brazil)

**Teledentistry and its importance in Latin America** - September, 2020 - Speakers: Alejandro Mejia (Mexico), Monica Fumero (Costa Rica), and Elaine Pagán (Puerto Rico)

**Perio & Caries and its relationship** - October, 2020 - Speakers: Stefania Martignon (Colombia), Cassiano Rösing (Brazil), and Andrés Duque (Colombia)

**The importance of pre-procedural mouthwashes** - November, 2020 - Speakers: Magda Feres (Brazil), Cristina Villar (Brazil), and Leticia Bezinelli (Brazil)
COVID-19 outbreak brought a challenge for dental practitioners: develop a protective protocol to be used on a daily basis in order to keep dental team and patients safe, as we are aware that aerosols or droplets are generated during different dental procedures.

Given the urgency of the pandemic, LAOHA and professors from University of São Paulo – School of Dentistry (FOUSP) created a lecture covering not only the latest evidence on the virus, but also preventive measures, infection control, and biosafety strategies in dental settings.

The online lecture received support from Colgate-Palmolive, which resulted in a dental continuing education course, a questionnaire for those who would like to broaden their knowledge on infection control measures and biosafety in dental settings.

Helping the oral health community navigate this unprecedented time for their practices is of utmost importance. It is also essential that oral health professionals maintain an up-to-date knowledge on how to promote oral health of their patients, while at the same time protect them from the threat posed by SARS-CoV-2.

LAOHA, sharing the latest!
Gerson Pedro José Langa (2017-2020)

It is with great pride that the Graduate Program in Dentistry of Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul held, on November 20th, the thesis defense of LAOHA scholarship holder, Gerson Pedro José Langa. Gerson is Mozambican and is the first PhD in Periodontics in his country. The defense took place through video conferencing with the following thesis committee members: Giuseppe Romito, Belén Retamal-Valdez, and Marilene Fernandes. The thesis was about the possibilities of compensating the use of dental floss to control supragingival biofilm. More than 100 viewers accessed the virtual room. At the end, Gerson received a tribute from his supervisor and LAOHA. Bernal Stewart and Zilson Malheiros also participated in the event. Congratulations, Doctor Gerson!

Dr. Cassiano K. Rösing - Advisor

Comment on the experience of being a member of LAOHA doctoral program and what makes it unique.

It has been almost 4 years since I arrived in Brazil. I took my education to the next level: a certification (specialist in Periodontics), an extension course, and a PhD degree in clinical dentistry with emphasis in Periodontics. It has been such a huge achievement to come that far. I am still feeling overwhelmed by the emotions of what I have accomplished over the past years.

None of this would have been possible without the support from many people, especially from my family and, not to mention, from LAOHA. The association funding was certainly of fundamental importance. It brought me hope for the future; I became a real believer. Thanks to LAOHA, I now have the necessary tools to make a difference in the Mozambican dentistry community.

I can recall many of the trips the other students and I went on, the moments we shared, and especially the networking provided by LAOHA, which gave me the chance to meet influential people who contributed a lot to the society and, therefore, inspired me; it was priceless. LAOHA became our family. Being part of this family was key to our professional development, which will impact positively on the future of our countries.

What is your perspective on the future?

With great pride and happiness, I became the first PhD in clinical dentistry (Periodontics) in my country.

That is the result of what I have learned over these 4 years. Nothing comes for free and we have to work hard to achieve anything. That said, my future will be defined by the knowledge passed on to me.

I hope I can contribute not only to my country, but to Africa as a whole, because of the potential it has. And as I was once told by Graça Machel Mandela “after you are done, go home, go back to your people and give them everything that was given to you by LAOHA; it doesn’t matter if you are going to do something small, but do it with your people, in your country/home...”. Those words were such encouragement to a promising future. I hope I will be able to carry out several projects which will benefit my country, my continent, and make a difference in the lives of those in need.
Carlos Guillermo Benitez Silva (2016-2020)

“Carlos Benitez was an exceptional graduate student. In addition to having above-average knowledge, he was always very committed to the program and tried to get involved in all academic aspects related to his graduate studies. He was always open to learn and ready to help. As soon as he finished his training, he had the opportunity to collaborate professionally with Colgate and LAOHA. Success!

Comment on the experience of being a member of LAOHA doctoral program and what makes it unique.

The time I was a member of LAOHA doctoral program definitely changed the opinion I had about dentistry and, particularly, about scientific research in the area. It helped me see that it is possible, regardless of the available structure, to carry out research in Latin American countries and that we still have a long way to go to increase both the number and quality standards of research. Besides that, the program allowed me to get to know another culture, amazing people, and a different way of life. Undoubtedly the aspect I value the most about the program is networking. Meeting many people with whom I was able to interact surely helped me to be a better professional and a better person.

What is your perspective on the future?

First of all I would like to apply all the knowledge provided during these years, collaborating to the improvement of dental research in Mexico. I expect to continue collaborating with the people I met on this journey. I also expect that, by exchanging scientific and cultural knowledge with them, we will strengthen our bonds, essential for our growth. In relation to my professional goals, I would like to combine dental practice with academia. I would say that it is important to get to know various environments and always keep up to date in relation to their different aspects.
Gloria Marcela Ramirez Lemus (2017-2020)

"Gloria Ramirez is shy and discreet; however, she is competent and committed. She overcame initial adversities such as living alone in a new country, but she was smart and keen to take advantage of all the academic opportunities offered by the graduate program to develop herself scientifically. She showed teamwork skills and a great dedication to all the projects she was involved in. It was an honor to have been her advisor and I am sure that, in Colombia, she will be able to apply all the knowledge acquired in the PhD program. Success!"

Dr. Giuseppe A. Romito - Advisor

Comment on the experience of being a member of LAOHA doctoral program and what makes it unique.

My experience of being part of the LAOHA Doctoral Program was very enriching. Having the opportunity to travel to another country and study at one of the best universities in Latin America changed my life personally and professionally speaking. Over these three years, I acquired much knowledge in various dentistry areas and met teachers with admirable professional training skills who were a source of inspiration. It is also worth mentioning how fortunate I was to meet my colleagues from different countries who were part of this experience. They, together with LAOHA executives (Bernal Stewart and Zilson Malheiros), became a family with whom I lived unforgettable moments. I will always remember them with affection and gratitude.

What is your perspective on the future?

My perspective in relation to the future is to be able to promote dental research in my country (Colombia). I also want to continue growing professionally and acquiring more knowledge to develop a career based on the best evidence. On the other hand, I have always liked teaching very much, so one of my objectives is to be able to work in various academic environments, helping with the training and growth of future professionals in Dentistry. One of my ideals is to be always open and ready for new opportunities from now on.
Mariana Linhares Almeida (2017-2020)

The thesis titled “Efficacy of different protocols for chemical control of supragingival biofilm performed during non-surgical periodontal treatment and during maintenance therapy in individuals with periodontitis” represents the end of a cycle of much dedication by LAOHA scholarship holder Mariana Linhares Almeida. Her commitment all over the years was outstanding. She is proactive and scientifically competent. She also has the ability to gather colleagues, make friends, and make practice days more joyful. The defense moment means celebration of another achievement in her life, a first step towards a successful future!

Dr. Luciene Figueiredo - Advisor

Comment on the experience of being a member of LAOHA doctoral program and what makes it unique.

Taking a PhD is always a big challenge, but being part of the LAOHA doctoral program was a privilege. In addition to the scientific knowledge, LAOHA provided me with incredible personal growth. Devoting to daily work challenges and living with such different people made me learn and develop people management skills, emotional intelligence, and future planning. Especially during the pandemic, LAOHA support with “Get together” was crucial to keep a healthy mind and be more tolerant of different situations.

What is your perspective on the future?

For me the future is already happening. I have just started teaching for a university in Mossoró, in the northeastern region, and have also started dental practice. Every beginning is difficult, but being back to my homeland with so much knowledge and experience makes the new journey simpler.
ACADEMIC PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT
by: Dr. Mariana Almeida & Dr. Gerson Langa

The main goal was to develop a platform designed to connect alumni and current fellows, no matter where they were; a way to provide a collaborative space promoting interaction.

It all started in 2018 when Dr. Zilson Malheiros first came up with the idea of creating a platform. Since then, we have been working on different ideas and sharing insights with an agency which embarked on our dream and turned our project into reality. Actually, looking back now, it is incredible to see how much work and creativity is needed to put everything together as we did. We ran into unexpected difficulties; however, thanks to the team led by Dr. Zilson, we were able to overcome them all.

Gladly, after long and hard work, we now have a fully functional website which will facilitate our interaction with alumni and current fellows, regardless of their location. The 2020 LAOHA/COHI fellows helped by writing a newcomers guideline in the platform based on their journey as dental students in a new country and city.

We now have an innovative website that combines both Interaction and knowledge. We hope to leave a legacy that will be helpful to newcomers 5, 10 or even 20 years from now.
ORCA 2020
by Dr. Stefania Martignon

Dr. Viviana Avila, a LAOHA fellow enrolled in a PhD program at Universidad El Bosque, presented her preliminary thesis results at the 67th ORCA Congress 2020 - Digital format, hosted in Sardinia, Italy.

She delivered a successful presentation on the prevalence of Erosive Tooth Wear - ETW (BEWE Index) and related risk factors in schoolchildren from Bogotá, Colombia. Her presentation was part of the oral session, Erosion Health Issues, on the 11th of July. Dr. Juan Sebastián Lara and Dr. Sava-Rosianu chaired the session. The abstract is available on the ORCA Congress dedicated Caries Research 2020.

LAOHA has played an important role in Dr. Viviana’s accomplishments as a researcher, member of the UNICA research group at Universidad El Bosque. The association funding as well as support made it all possible.

SBPqO 2020 - LAOHA-Colgate International Student Award
by Dr. Zilson Malheiro

The partnership between LAOHA and SBPqO, Brazilian Society for Research in Dentistry (Brazilian Division of IADR), created the “LAOHA International Students Award” for the foreign students who study in Brazil. The award was launched during the Annual Meeting of the SBPqO 2020.

The initiative aimed at recognizing the importance of internalization of post-graduation in the region. All the scientific posters were part of doctoral coursework and were developed by enrolled foreign students who defended their theses in 2019 or 2020.

In the 2020 edition, Daniela Alejandra Cusicanqui Mendez from Bolivia, doctoral student of the Paediatric dentistry program at the Bauru Dental School - FOB-USP, was the winner. She presented the poster “Antimicrobial activity and antibiofilm of arginine associated with sodium fluoride on salivary microcosm biofilm”. The poster and other research posters are available in the Annals Meeting Report, published as a supplement in the Brazilian Oral Research.
ABENO Meeting - 2020
by Dr. Zilson Malheiros

In November 2020, LAOHA participated in an online meeting with dental undergraduates in Brazil hosted by ABENO (Associação Brasileira de Ensino Odontológico) during its 55th Annual Meeting – digital format.

Dr. Cassiano Rösing enlightened the participants about the studies results on the prevalence of periodontal disease in 9 Latin American countries and also on Periodontal Consensus in Latin America, which was held last year thanks to the collaboration of periodontology associations and ABENO itself.

One of the consensus recommendations was to focus on understanding dental undergraduates view of dental procedures towards periodontal disease prevention. LAOHA and ABENO invited the dental students to participate in a survey titled “Dental Undergraduates Perception on Learning Periodontal Disease Prevention”.

Based on the survey results, LAOHA, ABENO, dental program coordinators, and periodontology professors can conduct an analysis and set up objectives to influence future dental professionals to be prevention oriented.
Publications

Jul – Dec


Efficacy of ozonated water mouthwash on early plaque formation and gingival inflammation: a randomized controlled crossover clinical trial. Authors: Nicolini, Alessandra Cardoso ; Rotta, Isadora Dos Santos ; Langa, Gerson Pedro José ; Friedrich, Stephanie Anagnostopoulos ; Arroyo-Bonilla, David Alejandro ; Wagner, Marcio Comparsi ; Weidlich, Patricia ; Rösing, Cassiano Kuchenbecker ; Cavagni, Juliano. Clinical Oral Investigations, v. 24, p. PMID: 32623524, 2020.

Maximum BEWE score on index surfaces and associated erosive-tooth wear risk factors in Colombian schoolchildren - Authors: Viviana Avila, Edgar Beltran, Bernal Stewart, Zilson Malheiros, Stefania Martignon. 67th ORCA Congress 2020 - Digital format, hosted in Sardinia, Italy.


Teledentistry and the Unified Health System: an important tool for the resumption of Primary Health Care in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic Authors: Fernanda Campos de Almeida Carrer, Bruno Matuck, Edson Hilan Gomes de Lucena, Fábio Carneiro Martins, Gilberto Alfredo Pucca Junior, Mariana Lopes Galante, Maria Fernanda de Montezuma Tricoli, Mary Caroline Skelton Macedo. Pesquisa Brasileira em Odontopediatria e Clínica Integrada

The effect of cetylpyridinium chloride mouthrinse as adjunct to toothbrushing compared to placebo on interproximal plaque and gingival inflammation-a systematic review with meta-analyses. Authors: Langa, Gerson Pedro José; Muniz, Francisco Wilker Mustafa Gomes ; Costa, Ricardo dos Santos Araújo; da Silveira, Taciane Menezes; Rösing, Cassiano Kuchenbecker. Clinical Oral Investigations, v. 59, p. 33185736, 2020.