

**Annual Report**

December 2023

# **ICCAS 2023**

## **Activity summary and publications**



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Institute for Scientific Cooperation in Environment and Health

# From our Board

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The end of our second year as ICCAS is a good time to reflect on the value of our sustained commitment to the mission of the Institute under complicated and uncertain times such as those experienced both locally and globally this past year.

Is this commitment and the passion shared by all of us who make ICCAS, what helped us to keep focused on sharing and exchanging knowledge and experiences, and spreading science in the best way possible.

Like every year, our Working Groups, consisting of professionals who donate their time and expertise, were the driving force of the activities in 2023, with lively discussions, trainings and publications detailed in this Annual Report.

It is also fair to highlight that this was largely possible thanks to our Partner Institutions and the speakers invited to our Lunchtime Talks (which have become “a classic”) and the scientific discussion sessions in our groups.

We are also deeply grateful to the benefactors that have accompanied us throughout the year, and to our members, who support the Institute far beyond the economic aspect, with the contribution of their experts to our Working Groups.

Adversity has never stopped us, and what we accomplished this year is proof of that. We trust that our initiatives, publications, and transfer of knowledge will continue to add scientific value and quality to our audiences.

Our thanks to the entire ICCAS community, to our collaborators and our strategic partners, and our sincerest wishes for a better 2024.

# Activities:

## a. Socialization of Scientific Topics

### Lunchtime Talks

Our Lunchtime Talks series are online, short and open update sessions, already a classic on Fridays.

In 2023, we held seven talks where topics of interest to our community were discussed. A diversity of topics were presented, from the role of Ethics Committees in clinical research, to antimicrobial resistance or alternative proteins, plus a series of talks on food safety.

All Lunchtime Talks are available at our YouTube Channel: [ICCAS Science \(ICCAS Ciencia\)](#).

### The role of Ethics Committees

The first Talk of 2023 was given by **Dr. Diego Fridman** (FUNCEI and Coordinator of the Clinic Research WG), who presented: **“The role of Ethics Committees in Scientific Research”** (ECR), its functions, importance, and composition.

The main assignment of the ECR is the independent assessment of the ethical, scientific, and operative aspect of the studies, to achieve this goal, they have a multidisciplinary and balanced formation in terms of age, sex, and scientific and non-scientific training.

Other topics addressed in the presentation were: the informed consent process, and the legal framework that regulates it; the documentation necessary for the ethical review of a clinical research study, among others.

This activity was conducted under the scope

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VIERNES 21 DE ABRIL  
A LAS 13:00 HS.

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**EL ROL DE LOS  
COMITÉS DE ÉTICA**

DISERTANTE:  
Dr. Diego Fridman

libre/gratuito  
requiere  
inscripción

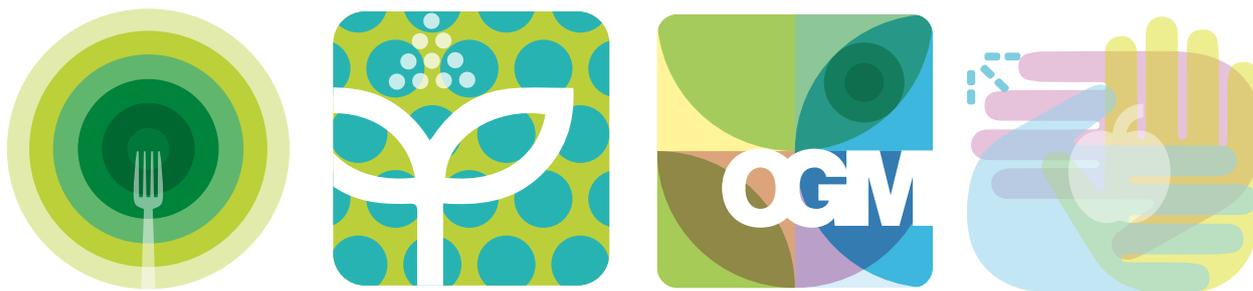
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of ICCAS newest WG: Clinical Research and its Relevance to Society<sup>1</sup>.

[Watch the video](#)

1. Learn more about our WG on Clinical Research and its Relevance to Society [here](#)



## Series on Food Safety

The **Series on Food Safety** was launched in May, organized by the **Risk Analysis and Toxicology WG**.

Throughout four presentations, experts from public and private sectors went through the different stages of the food chain, from the farm to our homes.

And in each stage, the measures that are taken to ensure safety for the consumer, were presented.

## From Farm to Fork

This Series started with the presentation: **“From Farm to Fork. Where does food come from?”**, where **Dr. María Luz Zapiola** (Argenbio) talked about crop improvement strategies and technologies available to produce, improve yields, and ensure the quality of what is produced, without neglecting sustainability.

One of the main objectives of the improvement strategies is for crops to improve their quality, more productive and resilient. Since they can be affected and suffer losses due to abiotic factors, that is, climate, and/or biotic factors (pests and diseases).

Finally, Dr. Zapiola also spoke about the tools to mitigate risks, from planting to harvest, and reduce food loss. [Watch the video here](#)

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### DEL CAMPO AL PLATO

De dónde vienen los alimentos

**VIERNES 19 DE MAYO**  
13:00 A 14.00 HS.

libre/gratuito  
requiere  
inscripción

DISERTANTE:  
Dra. María Luz Zapiola

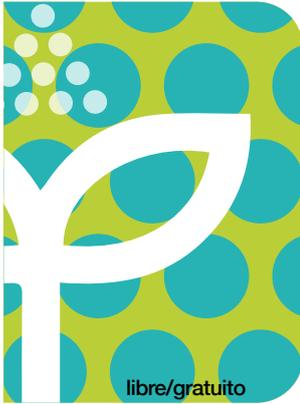
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# Pesticides assessment

**Eng. Guillermo Mentruyt**, Risk Assessment and Toxicology WG Coordinator, presented the second talk which addressed other aspect of food safety: pesticide use and assessment.

Why are they used? What is these products' role? What about the risk? How is it handled?

Apart from the answers to these questions, Eng. Mentruyt talked about plant protection products development process and the scientific studies used to evaluate them, for example, the toxicological assessments that result in the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) establishment, which is the reference value for chronic intake and it is also used to establish the Maximum Residue Levels<sup>2</sup> (MRLs or Tole-



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VIERNES 23 DE JUNIO  
13:00 A 14.00 HS.

Seguridad de los alimentos  
**EVALUACIÓN DE PESTICIDAS**

DISERTANTE  
Ing. Agr.  
Guillermo  
Mentruyt

libre/gratuito  
requiere inscripción

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rance), that are the residue levels commercially accepted for food.

[The video is available here](#)

# GMO Safety Assessment

For the third Talk, two experts from the public sector, **Eng. Perla Godoy** (Bioeconomy Directorate) and **Eng. Andres Maggi** (National Agrifood Service), talked about the assessments that GM crops undergo from the environmental and food safety aspects.

Agricultural Biotechnology in Argentina is considered one of the tools that allow to increase productivity, diversifying production, and preserving natural resources. Biotechnology allows to improve food production, reduce costs, preserve the environment, diagnose and prevent disease, and foster developments that allow more production of safe and higher quality food.

From the regulatory standpoint, Argentina has more than 30 years of experience in the application and regulation of modern biotechnology techniques, and also as a refe-



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VIERNES 11 DE AGOSTO  
13:00 A 14.00 HS.

Seguridad de los alimentos  
**EVALUACIÓN DE OGM**

DISERTANTES

Perla Patricia Godoy

Andrés Maggi

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rence to other countries, providing training on biosafety regulations and evaluation to different countries and institutions globally.

Eng. Godoy also commented about the criteria used in Biosafety Assessment: Case

2. Learn more about MRL reading the publication from our Special Report Serie: [Plant Protection Products Residues. Local and International Regulatory Criteria](#)

by Case; Science based; Quality; Familiarity; History of Safe Use. And mentioned the comparative approach for GMO Risk Assessment.

On the other hand, Eng. Maggi talked about food and feed safety and nutritional quality evaluations of genetically modified organisms.

During his presentation he explained that through crop domestication and improvement phenotypical changes were generated, because of DNA modifications, for example: shape; size; color; flavor; composition; and agronomic features. He mentioned improvement techniques used in conventional

plant breeding, like mutagenesis, and how it works.

Regarding the GMO food suitability assessment, both unintentional (key nutrients, antinutrients, and biological significance assessment) and intentional changes (possible allergenicity/toxicity of the new introduced traits) are analyzed.

Finally, he addressed the step by step of the assessment process and the evidence analyzed for each GM crop: event description and molecular characterization; compositional evaluation; allergenicity evaluation; toxicological evaluation; nutritional suitability evaluation. [Watch the video here](#)

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## Food Handling Best Practices

The last talk of the **Food Safety Series was about Food Handling Best Practices**; by **Roxana Furman** (Cazabacterias).

The presentation began with the definition of **Foodborne Disease** and some data from PAHO (PanAmerican Health Organization) about the number of people affected by the foodborne disease in the region. Then, she defined “Food Safety”, what aspects are considered in terms of food quality, the hazards involved and the association between these hazards and risks.

The presentation finished with the four steps to ensure food safety: clean; separate; cook; cool.

During the Q&A, the audience asked about vegetable sanitization, food storage best practices; etc.

VIERNES 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE  
13:00 A 14:00 HS

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del mediodía

Seguridad de los alimentos  
**BUENAS PRÁCTICAS  
EN LA MANIPULACIÓN DE LOS  
ALIMENTOS EN CASA**

libre/gratuito  
requiere inscripción

DISERTANTE  
Roxana Furman

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[The video is available here](#)

# Alternative Protein Sources

As part of the celebration of the **World Food Day**, we co-organized this Talk along with InfoAlimentos, at which **Dr. Adriana Pazos** (INTA) spoke about what is new in alternative protein research.

The presentation started with some basic notions: from what are proteins, what are their functions on a metabolic and technological level, to the association with diet throughout our lives.

Regarding alternative proteins, Dr. Pazos talked about those of plant, fungal, algae and insect origin. When it comes to study alternative protein sources, several factors are taken into consideration, such as: safety, availability, protein quantity and quality, nutritional features, perception, etc.

Finally, she addressed the main features of these alternative proteins, what is new

Innovación en alimentos Charlas ICCAS del mediodía

## FUENTES PROTEICAS ALTERNATIVAS

VIERNES 10 DE NOVIEMBRE  
11:00 A 12:00 HS

CAMBIO DE HORARIO

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DISERTANTE  
Dra. Adriana Pazos



INFCALIMENTOS

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regarding cultured meat, updates on edible insects, national and international regulatory frameworks, and some perception studies to test acceptability.

[Watch the video](#)

# Antimicrobial Resistance

The 2023 ICCAS Lunchtime Talks finished with **Dr. Adriana Sucari** (FUNCEI) presenting about **Antimicrobial Resistance** (AMR).

AMR is a serious public health issue both locally and globally. According to World Health Organization (WHO) is “one of the ten main threats world-wide”, as increasingly ineffective antibiotics lead to more difficult-to-treat infections and increased mortality, especially in hospitalized patients.

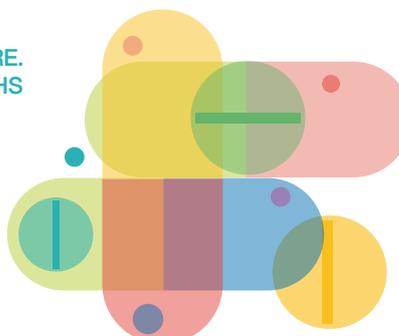
In September 2015, WHO together with PAHO launched the “Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance” where the strategic objectives for the containment of AMR are outlined, including:

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## RESISTENCIA ANTIMICROBIANOS

VIERNES 24 DE NOVIEMBRE.  
13:00 A 14:00 HS

DISERTANTE  
Dra. Adriana Sucari



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- Information and awareness.
- Surveillance and research.
- Disease prevention and control.
- Appropriate use of antimicrobials.
- Development of economic arguments for sustainable investment.

The presentation continued with the communication published by WHO in 2017, that detailed which bacteria require priority attention due to their mechanisms and emergence of resistance.

In this communication those bacteria are classified as:

Priority 1: Critic;

Priority 2: High;

and Priority 3: Medium.

After addressing the multi-resistance issue, and the distribution data of carbapenem in enterobacteria, globally and locally, Dr. Sucari continued to elaborate on the actions for the World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2023<sup>3</sup> and the association with One Health.

One Health is a notion that “includes not only human health, but also animal, environmental

health, and food safety”. Why is this important? Because it helps prevent, on a human level, running out of antimicrobials for treatment in hospitalization centers and health centers.

Dr. Sucari finished her dissertation presenting the new Act<sup>4</sup> which prevents and control AMR, that was passed in 2022, and shared the main points:

1) Creation of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Resistance; and creation of the National Commission for the Control of Antimicrobial Resistance (In Spanish: CONACRA).

2) Regulate the expenditure, publicity, and promotion of antimicrobial agents: archived prescriptions, medical samples, etc.

3) Infection prevention and control associated with health care.

4) Regulate and foster the rational use of antibiotics in animal health and agrifood production; and gradually eliminate the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in animals for human consumption.

[Watch the video here](#)

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3. This Talk was held within the World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2023, held between November 18 and 24. A global campaign that aims to raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance. Learn more [here](#)

4. The full text is available [here](#)

# Activities:

## b. Technical Presentations to our Working Groups

### Panel Discussion on Biologics

Our **Biotechnology WG** has identified the need to work on Biologics for different applications (Bioinputs for agricultural production and others), get to know the state of the art and deepen the knowledge about this topic, applied to several areas: food, environment, agronomic, industrial, veterina-

rian (prebiotic, probiotics, and animal nutrition).

For this panel, we invited experts from public and private sectors: **Dr. German Ceizel** (Bioeconomy Coordination) and **Eng. Sebastian Gomez** (National Agrifood Service); **Dr. Marcos Pupin** (ABBI) and

**Dr. Roberto Rapela** (CABIO – Bioinputs Chamber).

Throughout their presentations, the experts explain what a Bioinput is, how every area describes it, application, scope, classifications, and challenges.

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### Presentation: Pesticide Tolerances in Food



We received the visit of **Prof. Kevin Armsbrust**<sup>5</sup>, from Louisiana State University College of the Coast & Environment, who presented: “**The Need for Globally Harmonized Pesticide Tolerance in Food**”.

This activity was conducted together with the Graduate School **Eng. Alberto Soriano** of the Agronomy School of the University of Buenos Aires.

[The video is available here](#)

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<sup>5</sup>. Chair, Dept. of Environmental Sciences and Claiborne Gasoline Company Chair in Air Quality/Environmental Toxicology and Professor; Louisiana State University College of the Coast & Environment; Ph.D. Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry, University of California at Davis, 1992.

# Activities:

## c. Scientific Integrity

### V Forum on Responsible Communication of Science and Health

“When eating becomes an ‘all or nothing’” was the theme of the 5th edition of the **Forum on Responsible Communication in Science and Health**, where experts from all sectors analyzed the communicational impact of extreme positions, they talked about how to improve dialogue with different audiences, discuss the possibility of communicating the nuances and analyzed proposals to improve communication of topics related to nutrition and health.

On September 8th over 100 people were present at Barcelo Foundation auditorium and more than 200 people watched it live on YouTube. During the Forum, professionals from diverse disciplines such as philosophy, nutrition, medicine, psychology, communication, agronomy, food technology and anthropology, analyzed in a transversal way the communication impact of the “all or nothing” proposals around food.

In the first panel those absolutist, categorical and extreme messages that misinform were discussed, from the perspective of health, nutrition, anthropology, and communication. In this context, the marketing use of “natural” when it comes

LLEGA EL FORO  
INSCRIBITE

VIERNES 8  
DE SEPTIEMBRE  
09:00 A 13:00 HS



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V FORO ARGENTINO DE  
COMUNICACIÓN  
RESPONSABLE EN  
CIENCIA Y SALUD

CUANDO COMER  
SE TRANSFORMA EN UN  
“A TODO O NADA”

PRESENCIAL  
ONLINE  
LIBRE Y GRATUITO



ORGANIZAN



to food was discussed and **Dr. Gustavo Romero** made a great presentation on “what is natural” from the logics perspective. He explained that: “Appealing to what is natural is an informal rhetorical fallacy”<sup>6</sup>.

With this premise, the experts of Panel II went through the different stages of the food chain commercialization, from

the farm to our tables, passing through the laboratory and the industry.

Finally, in Panel III, health professionals discussed how these absolutist messages may or may not contribute to the increase of eating disorders.

The video and a full report on the Forum is available at [InfoAlimentos website](https://www.infoalimentos.org.ar)



6. Read Dr. Romero's article at InfoAlimentos: “The fallacy of appealing to what is natural” (available in Spanish).

# Activities:

## d. Capacity building

### Continuing Education on the Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity

For the second year in a row, ICCAS, together with **Drs. Irina Kovalskys and Marisa Armeno** organized the Continuing Education on the **Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity**, a program for medical doctors that have completed or are completing their training in one of the areas of childhood health.

Obesity prevalence has been increasing among children and adolescents to the point it has become a global epidemic that challenges health systems to provide a specialized consult more frequently.

The main objective of this program is to improve the skills in addressing childhood and adolescent obesity in a highly interactive environment, promoting personal and professional growth, and helping participants to be more effective in their work.

The program covered topics ranging from the epidemiological aspects to the family and social impact that obesity produces in children and adolescents. A fundamental axis

was the treatment of clinical and metabolic comorbidities addressed from the distribution of adipose tissue and the classification of obesity, based on cardiometabolic, mechanical, psychological, and social compromise aspects.

The training was developed during 18 weeks, between May and October, through ICCAS' virtual campus.

Literature and theoretical material were provided, in addition to asynchronic clas-

ses with practical information, followed by highly interactive sessions with resolution of clinical cases where it was possible for the directors to share their vast experience, providing guidance and advice, while promoting the construction of a network of trained clinicians in the treatment of childhood and adolescent obesity.

[More information about the program, dynamic, etc. here](#)

CAPACITACIONES ICCAS



Actualización en el tratamiento de la **obesidad infantil y adolescente**

DIRIGIDO Y DICTADO POR: **DRA. MARISA ARMENO - DRA. IRINA KOVALSKYS**

Inicio del curso: **lunes 15 de mayo**. Finaliza: **lunes 23 de octubre**

[www.iccas.org.ar](http://www.iccas.org.ar)



# Seminar: Regulatory Sciences: Alternative Methods for Product Formulations



EDICIÓN 2023  
DESDE EL MARTES 8 DE AGOSTO  
HASTA EL VIERNES 25 DE AGOSTO

CAPACITACIONES ICCAS

## SEMINARIO

### Ciencias Regulatorias: Métodos alternativos para productos formulados

CON EL APOYO DE: 



In August, ICCAS issued a second edition of the **Seminar: Regulatory Sciences: Alternative Methods for Product Formulations**, with offline presentations and a closing online discussion session with the experts.

This Seminar is in line with ICCAS mission to foster capacity building, share the latest trends in toxicological evaluation and methodologies, and advocating for a reduction in the use of laboratory animals for toxicological studies.

#### Program:

##### Module I:

*Advances in Human Health Risk Assessment for Pesticides at USEPA.*  
Dr. Monique Perron (US EPA).

##### Module II

*Regulatory Toxicology: Alternative methods to assess oral, dermal and inhalation toxicity of formulated products.*  
Dr. Josefina Ramirez (Syngenta)  
Dr. Ligia Romeo (Corteva)

##### Module III

*Regulatory Toxicology: Alternative methods to assess dermal irritation and corrosion of formulated products.*  
Dr. Rosana Murata (Bayer)  
Dr. Ligia Romeo (Corteva)

##### Module IV

*Regulatory Toxicology: Alternative methods to assess ocular irritation and corrosion of formulated products.*  
Dr. Andreia Latorre (BASF)

##### Module V

*Regulatory Toxicology: Alternative methods to assess dermal sensitization.*  
Dr. Ligia Romeo (Corteva)

##### Module VI

*Importance of animal welfare as a driver of change.*  
Dr. Débora Racciatti (School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Buenos Aires)

This Seminar is in line with the mission of ICCAS to promote professional training, and in particular, the reduction in the use of laboratory animals for toxicological studies is an objective of great ethical importance that must be aimed for and which the Institute is committed to support.

# Critical Reading. Post-graduate course

## Theory and practical exercises were developed in five modules:

1. *Introductory module about current science and scientific integrity problems.*
2. *Science & communication.*
3. *General tools for critical reading.*
4. *Scientific papers analysis (types of studies, experimental design, results).*
5. *Final practical module and evaluation.*

This course on **Critical Reading** was developed by our Scientific Integrity WG and was held at the **School of Health Sciences of the H. Barcelo Foundation University**.

This first edition had 40 participants who rated this course as Useful or Very Useful to apply to their professional practices.

## InfoAlimentos Workshop

InfoAlimentos organized two **Workshops on Critical Reading of Food and Nutrition Contents**, addressed to professionals from different areas (such as: biochemistry, medicine, food technology, teaching, agronomy, etc.) where media articles and similar contents related to food were analyzed, and, this way, foster critical thinking and improve communication of this issues.

Trainers were experts in different fields, from the three Institutions that make up InfoAlimentos:

- **Valeria Durand**, Communications, (ArgenBio)
- **María Dolores Fernández Pazos**, Nutrition, (Fundación Héctor A. Barceló)
- **Juan Pablo Luppi**, Science Communication, (Bayer – ICCAS)



- **María Luz Zapiola**, Farm Production, (ArgenBio – ICCAS).

Throughout these workshops, scientific papers, pieces of news and social media publications were read in order to critically analyze them, and incorporate tools to encourage others to apply them (co-

leagues, patients, students, journalists).

Contents included science, nutrition, food production topics, as well as information sources, communication with patients, social media, etc.

[To know more, click here](#)

# Activities:

## e. Participations in Congresses and Scientific Meetings



### ISBR16

**ICCAS was present at the ISBR – International Society for Biosafety Research Symposium, held between April 30th and May 4th in St. Louis, MO, US, with two posters:**

- **Public-private Partnerships for Biosafety: knowledge and resources. Experience in Argentina: about the experience with the program “Biosafety for Researchers”, which consisted of workshops and a Resource Guide for researchers that is now available online.**
- **Graduate Certificate on Risk Analysis at the University of**

**Buenos Aires:** was awarded the 3rd price in the Poster Contest at the Symposium. *The Certificate on Risk Analysis for the Agrifood Sector, is part of the academic offerings of the Graduate School “Eng. Alberto Soriano”, School of Agronomy, University of Buenos Aires (EPG - FAU-BA). ICCAS contributes with in kind support and Working Group experts as faculty.*

In addition, the publication “Transportability of conclusions from confined field trials: a case study using the virus resistant transgenic bean developed in Brazil”<sup>7</sup>

by our Biotechnology WG was presented at the Parallel Session: “Introduction & Scientific Justification of Data Transportability for Confined Field Testing for ERA of GM plants”.



7. Read more about the publication [here](#)

# XIV REDBIO Argentina Symposium

ICCAS participated of the **XIV REDBIO Argentina Symposium**<sup>8</sup>, “**Biotechnology for a Changing World**”. Our abstract Public-private Partnerships for Biosafety: Knowledge transfer and resources was selected together with other seven for oral presentation.

This presentation was given by **Dr. Natalia Modena**, coordinator of ICCAS’ Biotechnology WG.

The abstract details the experience of the program Biosafety for investigators, which consisted of workshops in 2017, and which resulted in the development of the [Resource Guide](#) for researchers that is now available online.



The presentation is available [here](#)

## CONAGUA 2023

**iccas** Instituto para la Cooperación Científica en Ambiente y Salud <https://iccas.org.ar>

El Instituto para la Cooperación Científica en Ambiente y Salud es un ámbito de colaboración basado en la filosofía de trabajo tripartita (academia, gobierno e industria), cuya misión es conectar, facilitar el intercambio entre expertos y comunicar temas de base científica y tecnológica, priorizando la integridad y calidad.

El Grupo de Trabajo de Análisis de Riesgo y Toxicología (GT ARyT) cuenta con más de 10 años de existencia y reúne ingenieros agrónomos, biólogos, toxicólogos, químicos y médicos, entre otros. Aborda temas tales como: integridad de la investigación, inocuidad alimentaria, residuos y contaminantes en alimentos, buenas prácticas agrícolas, calidad de aguas, contaminantes emergentes, métodos alternativos al uso de animales.

**Números:**  
**+10 años**  
**7 publicaciones**  
**37 actividades**  
 27 Seminarios, conferencias, presentaciones - 10 Talleres y cursos  
**10 partners nacionales e internacionales**  
**1200 personas participaron de las actividades**  
**57 disertantes nacionales e internacionales**  
 provenientes de academia, gobierno e industria

**ATENCIÓN! ARSENICO**  
**LOS MICROPLASTICOS EN EL MEDIOAMBIENTE EN CRECIMIENTO**  
**¿QUIÉ SOMOS LOS PLAZURGAS Y COMO SE RESUELVAN EN LA RESPUBLICA ARGENTINAT**

**Nuestro canal ICCAS Ciencia**

\*Grupo de Trabajo sobre Análisis de Riesgo y Toxicología del Instituto para la Cooperación Científica en Ambiente y Salud, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Our Risk Analysis and Toxicology WG participated at the **XXVII National Water Congress (CONAGUA 2023)** with the poster: “**Interdisciplinary contribution to knowledge of water quality, toxicology and risk analysis**”.

The work, which highlights the multisectoral and interdisciplinary work that the WG has been developing for more than a decade, was presented under the thematic area: “Society.”

You can see the poster in the Library on our website

The Congress was held on August 28th, 29th and 30th in Buenos Aires and the theme was: “Towards a sustainable and inclusive hydric management”<sup>9</sup>.

8. More information on the 2023 REDBIO Symposium at [this link](#)

9. More information on CONAGUA 2023 [here](#)

# 1st World Congress on Toxicology, Environmental Health, and Health Emergency

According to WHO, Environmental Health is the “discipline that comprises aspects of human health, including life quality and social well-being, which are determined by social and psycho-social, environmental, physical factors; chemical and biological”.

The **1st World Congress on Toxicology, Environmental Health, and Health Emergency**<sup>10</sup> was held on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, organized by the Ibero-American Society of Environmental Health (SIBSA in Spanish) in Cordoba city. The main goal was to “train health teams in new notions related to environmental problems, including clinical toxicology, emergency analytics, veterinary clinic, experimental and related areas”.



**Dr. Karina Gomez Aguirre**, member of the Risk Analysis and Toxicology WG, participated in the panel “**New Approaches on Environmental Toxicology**”, coordinated by **Dr. Susana García** and moderated by **Dr. Jose Maria Ordoñez**.

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## XXII Argentine Nutrition Congress

The **XXII Argentine Nutrition Congress** was held in the city of Mar del Plata, from November 15th to the 18th.

**Dr. Irina Kovalskys**, coordinator of our Food, Nutrition and Health WG, took part in several presentations. First, at the Pre-Congress Symposium: “Obesity in the different stages in life”, where, together with other health professionals talked about childhood obesity, reproductive age and in senior adults. Dr. Kovalskys presented: “Childhood Obesity: Intersociety Consensus”.

Additionally, she participated at the “Challenges in addressing obesity in adolescence” Symposium, speaking about Pharmacotherapy, and gave the Mini Conference: “Free Sugar and Non-caloric Sweeteners Intake in Argentina. Association with current recommendations”, where local sugar intake data, and the consumption pattern in Argentina were shared, and compared with other countries in Latin America.



[You can check the presentation here](#)

Finally, **InfoAlimentos** presented a poster on: “Critical Reading to Understand Scientific Content that is News”, describing the Workshops on Critical Reading<sup>11</sup> conducted in 2023 and detailed the objectives, contents, audience, and results of these activities.

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10. More information about the speakers and the full program is available [here](#)

11. More information about the Workshops, [here](#)

# Tribute

## Dr. Juan Carlos López Musi Award at CYTAL 2023



The Argentine Food Technologists Association (AATA) and ICCAS, partnered to offer an award to the most innovative projects presented at the XVIII Food Science and Technology Congress (CyTAL 2023), to honor the memory of Dr. Juan Carlos Lopez Musi, the founder and President Emeritus of our Institution, who passed in 2022.

Dr. Lopez Musi was a great promoter of Food Sciences in our country and a great teacher, trainer of many generations of professionals specialized in these sciences.

The winning project was “Technological Assessment of the Lacticaseibacillus paracasei strain UNQLpc10, grown in economic media: use of by-products from the food industry”, by **Natalia Soledad Brizuela, Marina Navarro, Gabriel Luciano Gómez, Fabiana Carolina Pérez, Liliana Semorile, Emma**



**Tymczyszyn, Barbara Bravo Ferrada.**

Honorable mentions were given to two other projects: “Thermorheological and microstructural analysis of food oleogels obtained from binary mixtures of waxes”, and “Aptitude of chia mucilage as an iron chelator”.

To introduce the award, a shot video about Dr. Lopez Musi was screened



## PUBLICATIONS

At ICCAS the accessibility to open scientific knowledge is one of our priorities, and so we make public the results of our WG's activities both in peer-reviewed journals, as well as with reports or divulgation articles in the Documents and Special Reports Series.

These publications are available at the [Library of our website](#); the [2023 list of documents](#)

### **Non-caloric sweeteners consumption in the adult population of Argentina<sup>12</sup>**

The main objective of this study is to determine the consumption of aspartame, acesulfame-K, sucralose, and saccharin in the Argentine population aged 15 to 65 years and to evaluate this consumption in relation to the ADI.

Other goals were to stratify the consumption based on different sociodemographic variables and to determine the main sources of NCS consumed by the Argentine population.

[The full publication is available here](#)

### **Are the different cut-off points for sitting time associated with excess weight in adults? A population-based study in Latin America<sup>13</sup>**

Researchers from ELANS Project analyzed the association between sitting time and the probability of excess weight in adults from eight

Latin American countries. This paper was published in BMC Public Health.

[Read the publication here](#)

### **Role of the Ethics Committee in Research**

**Dr. Diego Fridman** wrote: "Role of the Ethics Committee in Research. Looking after the dignity, rights, safety, and well-being of people participating in research studies", the most recent publication of ICCAS Document Series.

Research in human beings is essential for health and it is the path to the development of new drugs, vaccines, and medical devices, or to study certain features of certain diseases. The design and implementation require not only methodological considerations but also ethical ones.

The Ethics Committee aims to review the studies to protect the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of the participants involved.

[Read the publication here](#)

### **Sugar-sweetened beverage intakes among adults between 1990 and 2018 in 185 countries<sup>14</sup>**

Which region of the world has the highest sugar-sweetened beverages consumption? Do older people consume more of these drinks? Or are the younger ones? What are the differences between men and women?

Answers can be found on this article: Sugar-sweetened beverage intakes among adults between 1990 and 2018 in 185 countries, published in November in Nature.

[The publication is available here](#)

12. Cavagnari BM. Edulcorantes no calóricos: características específicas y evaluación de su seguridad. Arch Argent Pediatr 2019;117(1):e1-e7

13. De Victo, E.R., Kovalskys, I., Fisberg, M. et al. Are the different cut-off points for sitting time associated with excess weight in adults? A population based study in Latin America. BMC Public Health 23, 110 (2023)

14. Lara-Castor, L., Micha, R., Cudhea, F. et al. Sugar-sweetened beverage intakes among adults between 1990 and 2018 in 185 countries. Nat Commun 14, 5957 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-41269-8>



## Resource Guide on Biosafety

The Resource Guide on Biosafety for crop improvement projects using recombinant DNA techniques is a tool for professionals which aims to:

- Bring closer basic notions about Biosafety and Risk Assessment of transgenic crops to professionals dedicated to research and development.
- Contribute to the planning of a project.
- Identify what type of information and resources (human, infrastructure, etc.) are necessary.
- Provide tools to facilitate the regulatory process.

### Some of the topics addressed are:

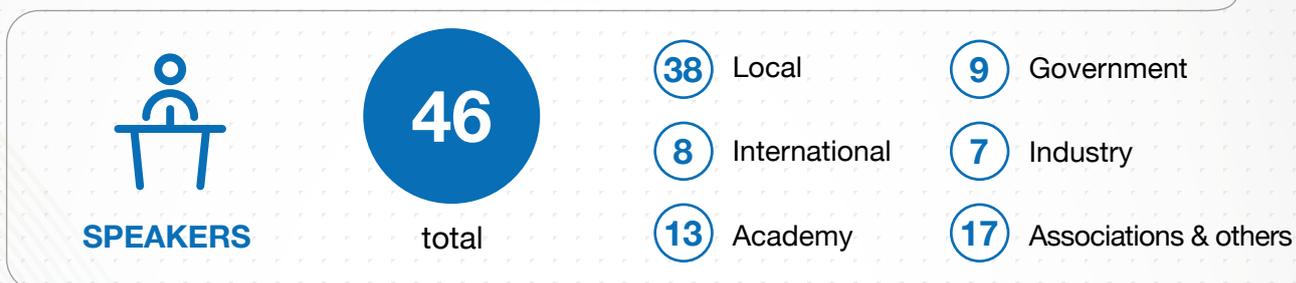
- Development stages.
- Conceptual tools.
- Biosafety.
- Risk management.
- Regulatory trials.

### More information

- **Dr. Marisa Lopez Bilbao**, President of REDBIO Argentina, introduces the Guide by going through the modules and annex. [Watch the video here](#)
- The Guide was presented as a poster last May at the ISBR16. [The poster is available here](#)
- Also, it was presented as an oral communication at the REDBIO Argentina Symposium 2023. [The presentation is here](#)
- In addition, you can read [the article](#) where you will find some background on this project.

# - To sum up...

## ICCAS' 2023 Activities & Publications in numbers



# \_ About ICCAS resources

As part of the ICCAS work philosophy, the Institute receives resources from different sources:

- Our WGs and advisors are 90% volunteers. These resources are translated into donated hours composed of WG participation, teaching workshops, seminars and trainings, writing, reviews and edition of publications.
- In a similar way, our partner institutions (foundations, institutes, universities, and government agencies) provide in kind resources: from access to venues and digital platforms, to grants for specific projects, and the time of their experts.
- The companies and institutions that are associated and support ICCAS contribute to the activities and to the proper working of the Institution in a collaborative way. This is achieved through a pool of resources (joint fund) that is managed according to the Institution's strategic plan, in a participatory and transparent decision-making process, coordinated by the working groups and the Executive Board.

## Budget Distribution

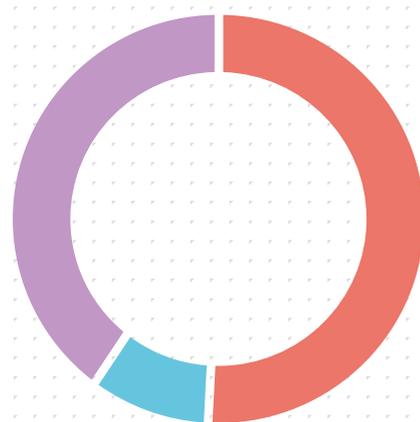
The funding sources of our Institution were distributed as follows:



- Membership feed
- Donated hours
- In kind
- Grants

## Distribution of Funds

In 2023, the sources of resources of our Institution were distributed as follows:



- Scientific Program
- Working Groups operation
- Institution's operation

# – Communication



In 2023, our website [ICCAS.org.ar](https://www.iccas.org.ar) has exceeded **160,000 visits**<sup>15</sup>, 25% more than 2022. The most visited site is [Activities](#) (Capacitaciones), where the information about trainings and other projects can be found.



Also, the website has a [Library](#) where publications from our Special Report Series and Document Series are available, as well as articles published in peer-reviewed journals.



The opening rate of our **Newsletter, ICCAS Informa**, has increased from 2022, and it is **25.73%**. Our communications reach around **8,200 people**, not only in Argentina but also other countries. In the site News ([Actualidad](#)) the latest about the Institute, publications, upcoming and recent events, etc., can be found.



Furthermore, we continue working on expanding our social media platforms to make our Institution better known. Currently, you can find us at: [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [X](#)

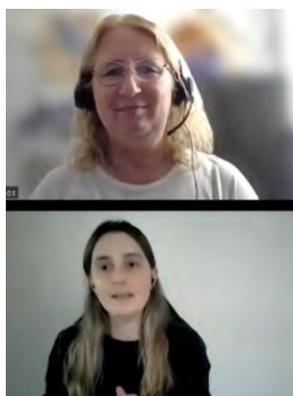


And last but not least, we are also on YouTube, our channel is [ICCAS Ciencia](#), where you can find videos of our activities and other recordings.

## INTERVIEW SERIES

In 2023, we launched the Interview Series, to talk with experts about different science related issues that are relevant to our audiences. In the first interview, we talked to **Dr. Valentina Olmos** (School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires, and member of our Risk Analysis and Toxicology WG) about Arsenic: what is it? How does it affect our health? How can we prevent or reduce exposure?

[Watch the video here](#)



## The most downloaded documents of 2023

*Familiarity in the Context of Risk Assessment of Transgenic Crops: Focus on Some Countries in the Americas*  
– 5.049 downloads

*Shelf life of Food: What do we know?*  
– 5.043 downloads

*Dietary Patterns in the Argentinian Population and Their Association With Sociodemographic Characteristics: Results From the ELANS Study (2014–2015)*  
– 4.426 downloads

*Poster Risk Analysis and Toxicology WG*  
– 4.304 downloads

## Popular publications in our Document Series

*Risk vs. Hazard*  
– 3.934 downloads

*Attention Arsenic! Why is it the bad guy?*  
– 3.042 downloads

*ELANS: Contributions to an Evidence Based Nutrition for Latin America*  
– 2.824 downloads

*What are pesticides and how are they regulated in Argentina?*  
– 2.743 downloads

*Microplastics in the Environment, a growing issue*  
– 1.412 downloads

*Role of the Ethics Committee in Research*  
– 1.027 downloads

15. Visits contemplated from January to November 2023

# – 2024 Projects & Proposals

Below, you can find the list of some proposals for next year:



## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

We will continue with our capacity building and training programs for professionals through our Workshops, Seminars, and Courses. We are planning a Workshop on Conflict of Interest organized by our Scientific Integrity WG.

Regarding our Health area, there will be a third edition of the Continuing Education on the Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity, with the possibility of expanding it to other audiences of professionals. Also, it is proposed to organize a new edition of the Immuno-nutrition Course.



## **ICCAS LUNCHTIME TALKS**

We plan to continue our series of webinars at noon, to address topics and emerging issues of interest to our community.



## **WORKING GROUPS**

- Risk Analysis and Toxicology: work on environmental health, continue socialization and dissemination actions, and capacity building.
- Biotechnology: knowledge of the world of Biologics and current scientific risk assessment criteria
- Scientific Integrity: launch a forum for discussion and consensus on conflicts of interest and the implications for public-private collaboration, and continue with new edition of the Forum for Responsible Communication.

[iccas.org.ar](http://iccas.org.ar)



**Institute for Scientific Cooperation  
in Environment and Health**

1145 Santa Fe Av. Floor 4  
C1059ABF  
Buenos Aires City.  
Argentina