



Annual Report 2024

ICCAS

Activity summary
and publications



iccas

Institute for Scientific Cooperation
in Environment and Health



— From the ICCAS' Board

Another year full of activities and contributions has come to an end. Considering the changing and difficult environment, we managed to continue with our mission of updating, training, and informing the community of professionals who follow ICCAS year after year, and welcomed those who have only recently met us.

It is a great joy for us to see the enthusiasm and commitment of those who participated in our activities, in a year that was not easy for anyone. This speaks to the value of ICCAS and the quality of our content and experts and we are grateful for the appreciation.

2024 ended with another recognition for our Responsible Communication program based on the InfoAlimentos platform, together with our strategic partners, which makes us proud and reaffirms us on this path of sharing science-based information with the community.

This quality principle is present in everything we do and we will keep making our best effort in the pursue of excellence.

We hope you join us in 2025.

Thank you very much and our best wishes for this new year!

Highlighted Activities

ICCAS' Lunchtime Talks

Our monthly Friday Lunchtime Talks have become a classic.

Throughout 2024, various topics were addressed: Household chemical products management, “Picky eaters”: feeding difficulties in children, Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth syndrome, Food Safety, Dairy Intake & Diet Quality, to name a few. All Lunchtime Talks are available in Spanish at our YouTube Channel: [ICCAS Ciencia](#).



Article 3rd of the 709/98 Resolution of the then National Health and Social Action Ministry defines home health products as “those substances or preparations intended for cleaning, washing, odorizing, deodorizing, sanitizing, disinfecting or sanitizing for use in the home, and/or public and/or private collective environments”¹.

On the first Lunchtime Talk of 2024, **Drs. Gabriela Rovedatti, Fernanda Simoniello** and **Marcelo Wolansky**, talked about these products, other definitions and storage and handling best practices.

Home Health Products: Do we know how to use them at home?

Data collected by the Centers of Information and Counseling of Toxicological Assistance (*Centros de Información y Asesoramiento de Asistencia Toxicológica – CIAATs*)² point out that 80% of chemical poisonings occur at home, and within these poisonings, products for domestic or peridomiliary use used for cleaning and pest control occupy second and third place, respectively, only below medicines.

Another issue they noted is how home health products are disposed of.

The following must be taken into considerations: the label instructions, the concentration of the product and the suitability of the person handling it.

The regulations cover this

issue in Law 25.916 on Household Waste Management³. This law also regulates the disposal of hazardous waste.

In addition, the speakers commented on their experience interviewing families. The questions were designed to understand the perception of risk and the practices that these families had in relation to household pesticides and cleaning products.

At the end of the Talk, they presented on the use of pesticides linked to vector-borne diseases (e.g. dengue, yellow fever, hantavirus, etc.), and also about the importance of (and how to) prevent the proliferation of these vectors at home.

[The video is available here](#)

1. Resolution 709/98

2. 2015 Toxicological Information Directory

3. Law 25.916

The National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT⁴) classifies home health products as:

Risk I :

Products: groups with better acute toxicity and lower risk of fatal poisoning. Subgroup A and B.

Risk II:

Products: groups with greater acute toxicity and higher risk of fatal poisoning. Subgroup A and B.

Also, they divide them as:

- Over-the-counter products.
- Professionally sold products.
- Over-the-counter and professionally sold products.
- Products for exclusive use in Public Health.

The degree of risk depends on:

- Toxicity and active concentration.
- Safer packages.
- If they are ready-made products without prior dilution.
- Greater frequency of similar products.

Food Safety: Are we prepared for the unexpected?

We joint **InfoAlimentos** and invited **Dr. Adriana Sucari**, to talk about Food Safety, on the occasion of the **World Food Safety Day**, celebrated since 2019 on June 7th.

The Talk started up with the difference between food safety and food security, two concepts that address different aspects of food.

Regarding Food Safety, Dr. Sucari pointed out the 5 Keys to Safer Food, that are for both best practices at home and establishments that prepare, distribute and/or sell food.

About “One Health”, she noted that comprises people, animals and the environment, so when talking about health, we are referring to human, environmental and

animal health. The latter is linked to food safety, as is environmental health.

After that, Dr. Sucari talked about foodborne diseases, definition, probable causes, etc., and why is difficult to have a foodborne disease rate. She also commented on the hazard classification related to food: physical, chemical, and biological. She focused on the latter and commented on technological advances in pathogen detection systems. Also pointed out the importance of environmental monitoring in food processing establishments.

Finally, she talked about Predictive Microbiology and said it is a science field that focuses the use of mathematical models y computer technics to predict growth,

Charlas ICCAS del mediodía

VIERNES 14 DE JUNIO.
13:00 A 14:00 HS
(Argentina)
libre/gratuito
requiere inscripción

INOCUIDAD ALIMENTARIA

¿Estamos preparados para lo imprevisto?

DISERTANTE
Dra. Adriana Sucari

InfoAlimentos | ICCAS

survival and behavior of the food microorganisms in food and other environments. This discipline allows to assess potential microbial contamination risks in food products.

[The video is available here](#)

4. More information on ANMAT [here](#)

Charlas ICCAS del mediodía

VIERNES 12 DE JULIO
13:00 A 14:00 HS
(Argentina)




DISERTANTE
Dr. Juan Pablo Stefanolo

¿QUÉ SABEMOS SOBRE SIBO?
Sobrecrecimiento Bacteriano en el Intestino Delgado

www.iccas.org.ar libro/gratuito requiere inscripción



SIBO is Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth and can occur when excess bacteria builds up in the small intestine, specially the type of bacteria that are not usually found in that part of the digestive tube.

Dr. Juan Pablo Stefanolo started his presentation stating that our body is full of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and fungi), we are in a state of mutualism, the coexistence of these microorganisms in our body produces

What do we know about SIBO?

a mutual benefit, it means we are healthy.

On the contrary when we are sick, harmful bacteria appear. Changes in diet can upset the structural balance and may be linked to the onset of illness. This can also occur with some infections.

Dysbiosis is the change of the gut microbiota, whether qualitative or quantitative. An example of quantitative dysbiosis is SIBO, some of the symptoms are: stomachache, distension, diarrhea, anemia or vitamin deficiencies (malabsorption syndrome). The reference test to diagnose SIBO is the culture of the intestinal fluid.

Dr. Stefanolo then discussed the impact of SIBO in clinical practice, and the association with irritable bowel syndrome,

and some treatments currently used for SIBO.

To finalize his presentation, he mentioned that SIBO exists, but is less frequent than we see today, it is important that the diagnosis is given in an adequate clinical context and to focus on the choice of the patient to be evaluated.

And he highlighted that treatment with antibiotics (such as rifaximin) is effective and safe. Finally, he pointed out that genomic sequencing could contribute to better management.

[The video is available here](#)

Picky eaters... feeding difficulties

“Picky eaters... feeding difficulties. Lunchtime Talk with four experts” gathered **Drs. Ximena Gonzalez Sanguinetti, Irina Kovalskys, Carola Saure and Ms. Luciana Zonis** to talk about feeding difficulties in children and some of the examples they mentioned were: food selectivity, lack of appetite, fear of food, etc.

The feeding difficulties can be named in different ways: pic-

ky, fussy eaters. They are considered a mild and transient form of sensory disturbance, and are characterized by the rejection of food, not only when they try it but also when it has already been known and accepted. The variety and amount of food consumed is limited.

Other terminologies related to feeding difficulties are: neophobia (fear of new

Charlas ICCAS del mediodía

VIERNES 16 DE AGOSTO
13:00 A 14:00 HS
(Argentina)



PICKY EATERS...
Quisquillosos... difíciles a la hora de comer

DISERTANTES

Ximena González Sanguinetti | Irina Kovalskys | Carola Saure | Luciana Zonis

www.iccas.org.ar libro/gratuito requiere inscripción



things); food phobia or children with fear of eating; avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder; and poor appetite.

After that, some issues to

consider when evaluating a patient with eating difficulties were discussed, as well as the reasons or concerns that children and their families come to the consultation.

Dr. Saure pointed out the importance of taking into consideration the patient's medical history, since there are some health issues that can determine greater prevalence of eating disorders or alterations.

Finally, the speakers addressed the possible consequences that a child with eating difficulties may have, for example, severe malnutrition. In addition, they stressed the importance of a multidisciplinary approach and working together with health teams, the child and his/her family.

The experts discussed the topic of feeding difficulties with an update of all available

scientific information.

The narrative review was published in the journal *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* and is available at [this link](#).

The video of this Talk is available here



Charlas ICCAS del mediodía

VIERNES 13 DE SEPTIEMBRE 13:00 A 14:00 HS (Argentina)

DESPERDICIO DE ALIMENTOS:
¿Cuáles son las iniciativas para reducirlo?
¿Cuál es la percepción de los consumidores?

DISERTANTE: Msc. Marcela Leal

INNOVACiÓN Ciencia libre/gratuito requiere inscripción **iccas**

On the occasion of **World Food Loss and Waste Reduction Awareness Day**⁵, celebrated on September 29th, we invited **Msc. Marcela Leal**, who spoke about regional initiatives on food waste.

Her presentation began explaining the difference between food loss and waste. The first one is inevitable and occurs throughout the production process (harvesting, processing, etc.). Instead, food that was fit for consumption is wasted and thrown away for various reasons, such as: expiration date, because it is not aesthetically appealing, etc.

Food waste: Which initiatives are there to reduce it? What do the consumers think?

There are various initiatives, for example, the Latin American Working Group on Fruits and Vegetables Loss and Waste (in Spanish: GLAPD-FYH - Grupo Latinoamericano de Trabajo sobre pérdida y desperdicio de frutas y hortalizas) that focuses in this sector, since it is the one with the most rate of loss and waste⁶.

In Argentina, there is Buenos Aires City Circular Economy Network, which works in three themes: food waste reduction, reduction or elimination of single-use plastics, and reduction of organic waste burial.

There are initiatives from academia, from several universities and schools, but also from hospitals and hotels.

Regarding expiration dates,

Msc. Leal highlighted the publication written by our Food Waste WG: *Shelf life of Food: What do we know?* which provides information related to the determination and communication of the shelf life of food from different technological perspectives, as well as from the degree of understanding and interpretation of the terms used on labels by consumers.

About the consumers, a survey conducted among residents of the City of Buenos Aires highlighted the concept of edibility, that is, how edible some foods, or some parts of them, are. From these results, proposals such as the use of waste cuisine emerge.

Other surveys showed that there are different types of consumers, each one with

5. Learn more about this date [here](#)

6. GLAPDFYH's publication: "The sustainability of fruits and vegetables. Minimizing their loss and waste" (*La sustentabilidad de frutas y hortalizas. Minimizando su pérdida y desperdicio*) is available at [this link](#)

their own attitudes and shopping features:

- Recyclers
- Foodwaste generator
- Look for whims
- Price driven
- Eco-friendly

Surveys conducted in other countries of the region, such as Colombia, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile asked about waste

in restaurants; portion calculation; whether they have thrown away food that was still in good condition and why; the level of knowledge about the environmental impact of waste; and the attitudes they take when buying food.

Finally, she pointed out that consumers are the ones interested in reducing waste, from web searches and social media; accountability; and the

perception that not enough is being done on the part of traders and food producers to mitigate it.

[The video is available here](#)

Dairy Intake & Diet Quality

Dr. Georgina Gómez Salas explored the concept of dairy, its properties and benefits, and based on data collected during the **Latin American Study of Nutrition and Health (ELANS)**, the relationship between dairy consumption and diet quality.

A glass of milk, as a food, provides 8 gr. of protein, 11 gr. of carbohydrates, 9 gr. of fat and 150 kcal. It also provides minerals and micro-nutrients such as calcium, potassium, magnesium and vitamins such as A and B. Dr. Gomez continues detailing one by one the contributions of milk to our body.

Some of the benefits of dairy are:

- Presence of conjugated linoleic acid (CLA).
- The effect of fats and proteins on satiety centers.
- Direct effect of calcium on

the reduction of lipogenesis and the increase of lipolysis.

- The decrease of inflammatory biomarkers such as IL TNFalpha, CRP.

Regarding the data collected at ELANS Project, the total dairy intake was of 96 gr., with men consuming more than women, and, in terms of age group, adolescents consumed the most. Among the eight countries, the highest consumption was Colombia and the lowest was Ecuador. Argentina is in second place with 112.3 gr. per day.

Associated with the recommendations from international organisms on dairy intake:

- 19% of participants consume 200 gr. or more of milk per day.
- 33% consume at least 20 gr. of cheese per day.
- And less than 1% consume 150 gr. of yogurt daily.



Dr. Gomez Salas then addressed obesity, its consequences, how it is measured, the prevalence rates in Latin America, and the relationship between dairy consumption and body mass index.

At the end of her presentation, she talked about diet quality and the standardized questionnaires that allow to do a qualitative assessment of the diet at a population level were discussed. These questionnaires divide foods into protective and risk factors, depending on the contribution of each group.

To determine the overall quality of the diet, the total score of protective foods minus the

risk score is taken and 9 is added. According to ELANS data, the average in Latin America is 8.8. Associated with dairy consumption, those who have a higher intake of this group are those who show a higher score in the quality of the diet.

To conclude, she pointed out that:

- The dairy intake is not associated with overweight and obesity in the Latin American urban population.
- Higher dairy consumption was associated with better diet quality and greater adherence to recommendations for several nutrients including calcium, magnesium, vitamin A and D.

- Moderate dairy intake is part of a balanced diet.

[The video is available here](#)

Environmental Health: Big and small challenges. Public and domestic health

The 2024 Lunchtime Talks Series ended with **Dr. Susana Garcia**, president of the Iberoamerican Environmental Health Society (*Sociedad Iberoamericana de Salud Ambiental - SIBSA*)⁷, commenting that the environmental determinants of health are responsible for 23% of deaths and 22% of diseases recorded in the world.

The Population Attributable Fraction is a concept linked to management and incentives for prevention, and means that if the environmental factors that influence a certain disease are controlled, the prevalence of said diseases can be reduced.

She continued with the determinants of health that are unrelated to and complementary to genetics, and are associated with lifestyle, social networks, and the socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental characteristics of individuals.

Dr. Garcia drew a timeline from 1964 to 2020 that ends with the notion of “Global/Total/Planetary Health”. Some concepts associated with “total health” are: equity in health, environmental justice, resilience for the ecosystems. This broadens the notion of “environmental health”. Currently, the main issues of the environmental agenda are: climate change; pollution; water; loss of biodiversity.

In addition to the global approach to environmental health, this problem must be addressed at the domestic level. Twenty city management areas related to this issue are identified, some of which are:

- Climate change adaptation.
- Bromatology.
- Vectors and zoonosis.
- Environmental health monitoring.
- Control of chemical products.
- Safe water.



- Soil quality.
- Health care access.
- Participation of the community.
- Access to education.

She then spoke about water quality, particularly arsenic⁸ levels and the health consequences this can have, and about air pollution levels and some initiatives currently in place to monitor them.

To conclude, she highlighted some surveys conducted to learn more about environmental risk perception, where it was asked about perceived risk, acceptability, and trust in the authorities.

[The video is available here](#)

7. More information on SIBSA at [this link](#)

8. Additional information on arsenic is available at this [publication](#) and [video](#) by our WG on Risk Analysis and Toxicology.

Capacity Building

For ICCAS, contributing to capacity building is key, especially in times of accelerated generation of new knowledge and data. We consider that sharing and transferring knowledge and applicable tools to the professional community is a great contribution to the public good. Professional continuing education and training are some of the main goals of ICCAS.

Continuing Education on the Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity

The III Continuing Education course on the **Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity** was held in 2024, a program dedicated to MDs who have completed or are completing their postgraduate training in any area of children's 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 care more frequently. The main objective of this program is to improve the skills of pediatricians and other specialists to address these cases in a highly interactive environment, promoting personal and professional growth, and helping participants to be more effective in their work. This course is chaired by **Dr. Irina Kovalskys** and **Dr. Marisa Armeno**.

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.

This Course was held between April and November, in an interactive environment through the ICCAS virtual training platform. The agenda for this edition is available [here](#). More information on the content, dynamics, etc. is available at [this link](#).

Throughout the development of the program, theoretical training material, classes with

CAPACITACIONES ICCAS

INICIA
Lunes 22 de abril
FINALIZA
Lunes 11 de noviembre

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

CUPO LIMITADO
EDICIÓN 2024
22/04 al
11/11

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

Dirigido a:
Pediatras y médicos en general

Modalidad:
Virtual, a través del Campus
ICCAS con encuentros sincrónicos
por Zoom

Dinámica:
1 encuentro sincrónico mensual,
lunes a partir de las 17:00 hs.
Entrega de material y actividad
asincrónica cada semana

INSCRIPCIÓN
ABIERTA

ARANCELADO
Más información:
inscripciones@iccas.org.ar

www.iccas.org.ar



practical information and highly interactive meetings with clinical case resolution were provided, where it was possible for the directors to share their vast experience, producing guidance and advice, while promoting the construction of a network of clinicians with training in the treatment of childhood and adolescent obesity.



Diploma delivery. Participants 2024.

Workshop on Best Epidemiological Practices

The **ICCAS Working Group on Risk Analysis and Toxicology** organized a Workshop on Best Epidemiological Practices: research to assess the health impact of the presence of chemicals in the environment.

The identification of substances in soil, water, and air, in animals and plants, and also in human biological fluids is often linked to diseases, which causes concern in the community. Sometimes this link is well-founded and other times it lacks scientific basis. The Workshop spanned eleven weeks of talks and practical modules, covering protocol design for epidemiological studies, evaluation, and interpretation of results for decision making based sound scientific evidence. Speakers were experts from Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, and had the collaboration of a HESI⁹ expert.

Fifty-four professionals from both the public and private sectors participated in this activity, from disciplines such as biochemistry,



Del Jueves 1 de agosto al Jueves 10 de octubre

INSCRIBITE CON DESCUENTO ANTES DEL 15/07

ARANCELADO Más información www.iccas.org.ar

Propósito: Analizar las múltiples dimensiones de la implementación de las Buenas Prácticas Epidemiológicas (BPE). Generar un marco de referencia y fortalecer las capacidades de los profesionales en el área de la salud ambiental.

Dirigido a: Ingenieros agrónomos, biólogos, bioquímicos, investigadores, médicos, epidemiólogos, reguladores.
Modalidad: Encuentros sincrónicos, virtuales y semanales por Zoom y acceso a presentaciones, videos y materiales a través del Campus Virtual ICCAS

Ofrece acceso a las sesiones del II Congreso Virtual Iberoamericano de Salud Ambiental



agricultural engineering, medicine, biology, toxicology, nutrition, food technology, veterinary medicine, natural sciences, chemistry, food chemistry; and from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the United States, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

The [full program](#) and the [report](#) of this Workshop is available at our website.

The agenda was:

Module I:

Basic Concept son Scientific Integrity and Best Practices – Daniela Bonanno and Mario Rossi (Argentina).

Module II:

Study Desing and Ethical Aspects – Giselle Della Rosa (Argentina) y Julio Navoni (Argentina/Brazil).

Module III:

Sample and Sampling – Sandrine Deglin (USA).

Module IV:

Indicators and Monitoring. Referen-

ce Methodology – Edda Villaamil (Argentina).

Module V:

Result Analysis – Ligia Romeo (Argentina).

Module VI:

Result Interpretation. Risk Analysis. Reference Framework – Sandrine Deglin (USA).

Module VII:

Registry. Transparency. Accessibility. Clare Communication – Daniela Bonanno (Argentina).

Module IIX:

Concepts and Tools for Scientific

Advice to Decision Makers – Alma Hernández Mondragón (Mexico).

Module IX:

Decision-making simulation – Alma Hernández Mondragón (México) and INGSA team.

Module X:

Environmental Health – Luciana Antolini and Valeria Malinovsky (Argentina).

Module XI:

Integrative Activity – Ariana Rossen, Valentina Olmos, Edda Villaamil, Juan Carlos Batista and Guillermo Mentruyt (Argentina).

Scientific Integrity

Scientific Integrity cuts across all areas of scientific research and includes different aspects: the credibility and the quality of the research, real or perceived conflicts of interest and the responsible communication of the findings. ICCAS works on these three aspects and last year different activities have been held.

VI Forum on Responsible Communication of Science and Health

#FORO2024

VIERNES **27** DE SEPTIEMBRE
9 a 13hs.

PRESENCIAL
VIRTUAL
LIBRE Y GRATUITO

VI FORO ARGENTINO DE COMUNICACIÓN RESPONSABLE EN CIENCIA Y SALUD

COMUNICAR ALIMENTOS Y NUTRICIÓN A LAS GENERACIONES MÁS JÓVENES

ORGANIZAN

iccas

FUNDACIÓN H.A. BARCELÓ FACULTAD DE MEDICINA

ArgenBio

INFOALIMENTOS

For the sixth consecutive year, ICCAS as part of Infoalimentos, organized a new edition of the **Forum on Responsible Communication in Science and Health**, this time on “The challenges of communicating science and nutrition to the younger generations”.

The vital importance of this issue was raised, as Argentina shows high levels of obesity, high consumption of occasional foods and sugary drinks, with little or no physical activity in adolescents.

The Forum featured three panels and a presentation, where experts in science, health, education, and communication discussed and shared ideas to reach this population of digital natives with quality science-based information to help them make informed food choices using critical thinking tools.

More information and the video of the VI Forum are available [here](#)



Collaboration with partner institutions

During 2024 ICCAS continued to partner with other institutions, providing expertise at different venues to update, inform or teach.



ICCAS – CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA

We co-organized the Session: “**The food we eat: myths and realities**” on June 13th in the city of La Plata, for faculty members.

Some of the questions addressed:

- What are the crop improvement strategies to increase yields and production quality, without neglecting sustainability?
- Considering the production systems, why are phytosanitary products used?
- How is the risk of residues that could remain in plant products managed?



The presentations were delivered by **Amalia Ponzio** and **Guillermo Mentruyt**, members of or **WG on Risk Analysis and Toxicology**.

WORKSHOP ON OBESITIES: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The **ICCAS Working Group on Food, Nutrition and Health** organized the “**Seminar – Workshop on Monogenic, Syndromic and Hypothalamic Obesities: Advances and perspectives in diagnosis and management.**”

This event took place on November 22nd, bringing together more than 30 health professionals, including pediatricians, geneticists, nutritionists, endocrinologists, and other related specialties.

The Session included the presentations from international experts:

- Acquired hypothalamic obesity: a review (**Dr. Hermann Müller**).



Acquired hypothalamic obesity: a review

Hermann L. Müller

Department of Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, University Children's Hospital, Klinikum Oldenburg AöR, Oldenburg, Germany

Workshop on Monogenic, Syndromic and Hypothalamic Obesities: Advances and Perspectives in Diagnosis and Management, November 22nd 2024

- Bardet Biedl Syndrome: Genetic aspects and diagnosis (**Dr. Diana Valverde**).

And ended with a workshop module where participants shared their experience and held an exchange focused on diagnostics and treatment of obesity of genetic origin.

SERIES OF LECTURES ON RISK ASSESSMENT

ICCAS collaborates with the Graduate Certificate on “Risk analysis for the Agrifood sector”¹⁰ (University of Buenos Aires, School of Agronomy), organizing a series of lectures given by our experts.

Additionally, a series of presentations on Risk Assessment were given by **Dr. Clara Rubinstein** and **Dr. Carmen Vicién** -co-chairs of the Graduate certificate- to the members of the National Commission for Agricultural Biotechnology (*Comisión Nacional de Biotecnología Agropecuaria - CONABIA*), professionals from public and private organizations, academics, researchers, etc.

These talks included concepts and up to date topics related to:



- Conceptual framework for GMOs - Problem formulation
- Integrity of the information
- Road to harm
- Data transportability
- Agro-phenotypic studies

Participations

Throughout 2024, ICCAS was also present at Scientific Conferences and Symposia.



ISEE

Our Risk Analysis and Toxicology Working Group presented a poster at the 36th Annual Conference of the International Society

for Environmental Epidemiology¹¹, that took place August 25th to 28th, 2024.

“Interdisciplinary Contribution to Water Quality, Toxicology and Risk Analysis Knowledge” was presented as a poster and sums up the activities and publications of the Group.

[Read the poster here](#)



7° WCPGHAN CONGRESS

The 7th World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition¹² was held from December 4th to 7th in Buenos Aires city. The theme

was: “Integrating scientific knowledge for global equity”.

Dr. Irina Kovalskys, ICCAS’ Food, Nutrition and Health WG coordinator, participated in two sessions with experts from different countries: “Childhood and adolescent obesity” speaking about “Advances in the treatment of pediatric obesity” and “The diet of children in today’s world” presenting: “Nutritional requirements for a healthy diet”.

10. This Course is offered at the Graduate School “Ing. Agr. Alberto Soriano” of the School of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires. Learn more [here](#)

11. Learn more about the Symposium [here](#)

12. Learn more about the Congress at [this link](#)

Recognition

As in 2022, when InfoAlimentos was recognized by the Argentine Association for the Progress of Science (Asociación Argentina para Progreso de la Ciencia – AAPC) for its work on the sharing knowledge and disseminating science and technology in Argentina, last year, InfoAlimentos added a new award: Silver EIKON to the Excellence in Institutional Communication in the “Sustainability in Health” category¹³.



The Project presented was in this case the **“Communicating Science Consciously”** (*“Comunicar Ciencia a Conciencia”*) program: an integrated capacity building and communication program that aims to empower people with communication and critical thinking tools to strengthen confidence in the scientific-technological system, fight misinformation, make dietary decisions based on scientific evidence and thus collaborate in improving public health.

Communicating Science Consciously is based on three pillars:

- www.infoalimentos.org.ar: an information platform with content on food safety and nutrition for health and food professionals, communicators, and the general public.
- Forums on Responsible Communication of Science and Health (*Foro de Comunicación Responsable en Ciencia y Salud*): an annual event that gathers experts from several disciplines interested in discussing how to improve communication of scientific issues.

- *Critical Reading Workshops*: training and capacity building spaces for communicators, educators, health professionals and food production professionals, where publications of food and nutrition content in various media and platforms are analyzed in order to promote critical thinking and debunk myths and fight misinformation.

All the information about the Program “Communicating Science Consciously” is available here



Valeria Durand (Communication Coordinator of InfoAlimentos) and Jorge Núñez (Director of JNCom) received the award.

Publications

As part of ICCAS' mission, we consider it key to make science open and accessible, and we do so by publishing the results of our WG's work, both in peer-reviewed journals and in reports or informational articles in the Document Series or in Special Reports.

Conflict of Interest in Scientific Research

New publication of ICCAS Document Series which collects impressions and conclusions from the Workshop on Conflict of Interest organized by our WG on Scientific Integrity. Conflict of Interest in Scientific Research: An opportunity to advance knowle-



The more than 90 works published so far are available in the [Library](#) on our website

dge of the subject in Argentina (Conflicto de interés en la investigación científica: Oportunidad de avanzar en el conocimiento del tema en Argentina) seeks to be the starting point for the discussion on this topic and how it affects the advancement of science in all areas and sectors.

The Document is available in Spanish [here](#)

Incident type 2 diabetes attributable to suboptimal diet in 184 countries¹⁴

This study analyses the incidence of type 2 diabetes attributable to diet, the factors that contribute to this incidence and the groups most affected (by gender, age, educational level, region, etc.).

For this research, data were taken from the Global Dietary Database, of which Dr. Irina Kovalskys is a member and contributed data from the ELANS study. "Incident type 2 diabetes attributable to suboptimal diet in 184 countries" was published in Nature.

The publication is available [here](#)

Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022 a pooled analysis of 3663 population-representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults¹⁵

This publication takes more than 3,000 population-based studies and analyses the prevalence of obesity and underweight in adults, adolescents, and school-aged children from 200 countries

between 1990 and 2022.

"Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population-representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults" was published in Lancet.

The publication is available [here](#)

Graduate certificate on risk analysis for the Agrifood sector at the University of Buenos Aires¹⁶

The agri-food sector is highly regulated. Inputs for agricultural production, additives and adjuvants for the food industry, food safety and biotechnology products developed using recombinant DNA are subject to risk analysis processes.

This publication details the contents, dynamics and main objectives of the Graduate Course: "Risk Analysis for the Agri-Food Sector" which is taught at the Alberto Soriano School for Graduates of the Agronomy School of the University of Buenos Aires (EPG - FAUBA).

The publication is available [here](#)

14. O'Hearn, M., Lara-Castor, L., Cudhea, F. et al. Incident type 2 diabetes attributable to suboptimal diet in 184 countries. *Nat Med* 29, 982–995 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-023-02278-8>

15. NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population-representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults. *Lancet*. 2024 Feb 29:S0140-6736(23)02750-2. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38432237.

16. Vicién C and Rubinstein C (2024) Graduate certificate on risk analysis for the Agrifood sector at the University of Buenos Aires. *Front. Bioeng. Biotechnol.* 12:1378538. doi: 10.3389/fbioe.2024.1378538.

Feeding difficulties in childhood: A narrative review¹⁷

Between 25% and 40% of healthy children show some symptoms of feeding difficulties during their growth and



In 2024, 7 publications were produced, including ICCAS Document Series and Peer-Reviewed Journals.

development. This publication presents a narrative review that brings together the available information on feeding difficulties. It looks at feeding problems in young children and discusses the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to this problem.

“Feeding difficulties in childhood: A narrative review” was published in Argentine Pediatric Archives magazine.

[The publication is available here](#)

Monogenic obesity: physiopathology, diagnosis and treatment¹⁸

Monogenic obesity is a unique genetic dysfunction that appears during childhood, associated to hyperphagia, neurodevelopmental, metabolic and endocrine disorders.

In this publication you will find information on diagnostic procedures and therapeutic interventions available specifically for the control of hyperphagia and obesity in affected patients.

“Monogenic obesity: physiopathology, diagnosis and treatment” is a revision published in Buenos Aires Medicine magazine.

[The publication is available here](#)

Contribution of Proteins to the Latin American Diet: Results of the ELANS Study¹⁹

This publication analyzes daily protein intake in eight Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela). The data was quantified by person, country, and sociodemographic factors.

It was also determined that the consumption of animal and plant-based protein is generally proportional and reflects the availability of food by country.

“Contribution of Proteins to the Latin American Diet: Results of the ELANS Study”²⁰ was published in *Nutrients*.

[The publication is available here](#)

17. Saure C, Zonis LN, González Sanguineti X, Kovalskys I. Feeding difficulties in childhood: A narrative review. *Arch Argent Pediatr*. 2024 Apr 4:e202310200. English, Spanish. doi: 10.5546/aap.2023-10200.eng. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38527212.

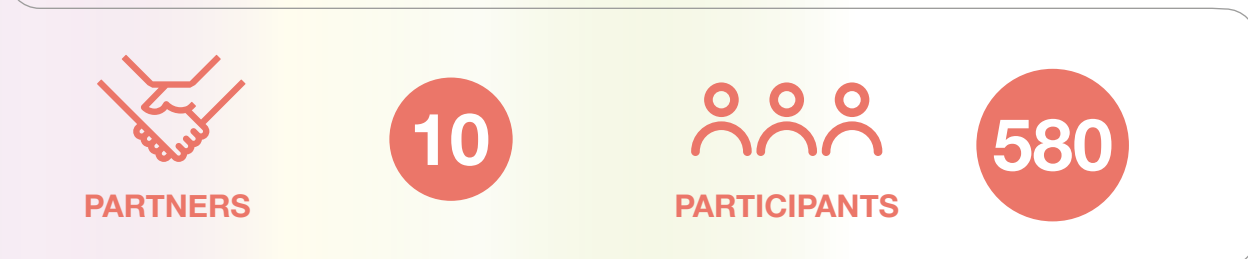
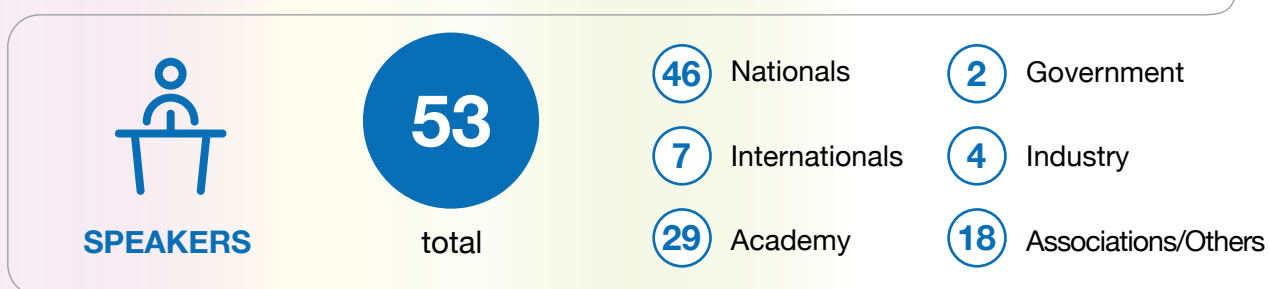
18. Andrés, M.E., et. al. (2024) Obesidad monogénica: Fisiopatología, diagnóstico y tratamiento. *Medicina Buenos Aires*, 84:00-00. https://www.medicinabuenosaires.com/revistas/vol84-24/destacado/revision_380.pdf

19. Herrera-Cuenca, M., Yépez García, M. C., Cortés Sanabria, L. Y., Hernández, P., Sifontes, Y., Ramírez, G., Vásquez, M., Gómez, G., Liria-Domínguez, M. R., Rigotti, A., Fisberg, M., Kovalskys, I., & Landaeta-Jiménez, M. (2023). Contribution of Proteins to the Latin American Diet: Results of the ELANS Study. *Nutrients*, 15(3), 669. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu15030669>

20. More information on ELANS Project [here](#)

- To sum up.....

ICCAS' 2024 Activities & Publication



By area

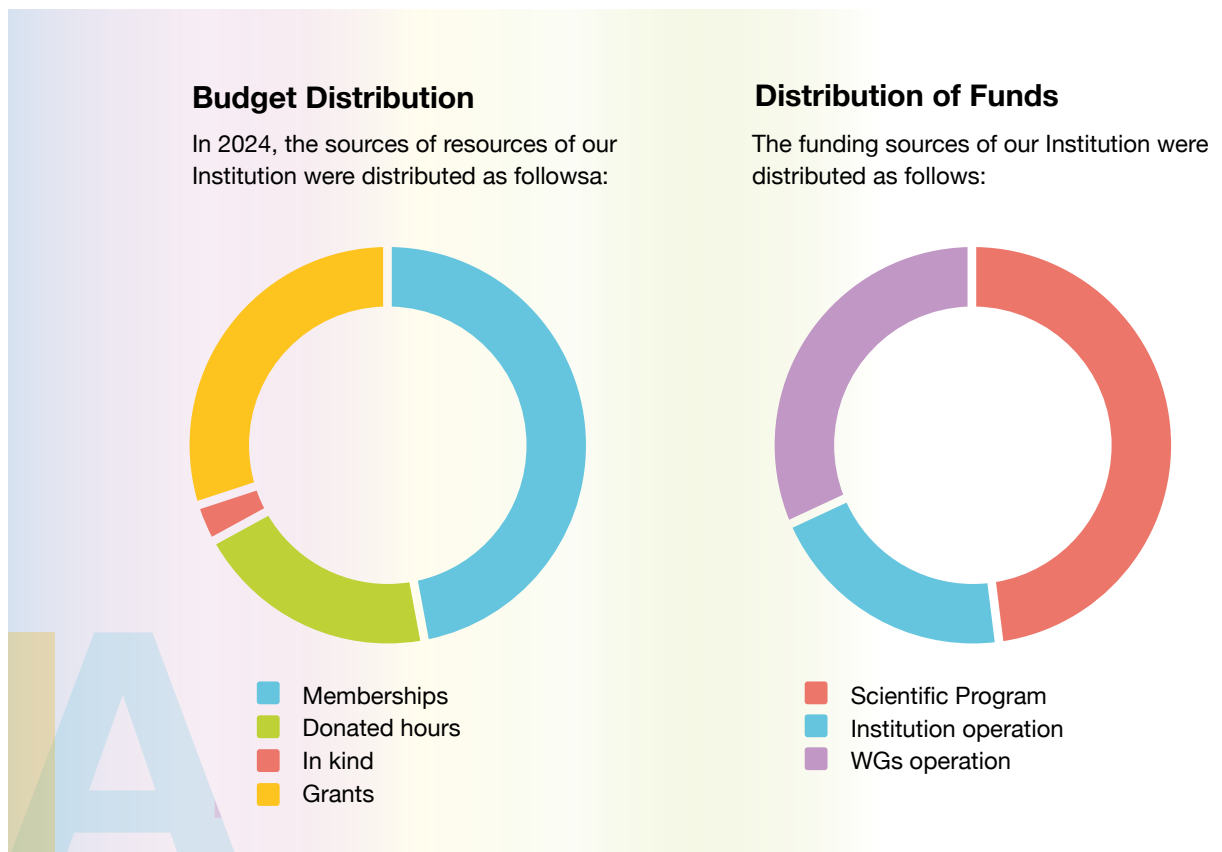


About ICCAS resources

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

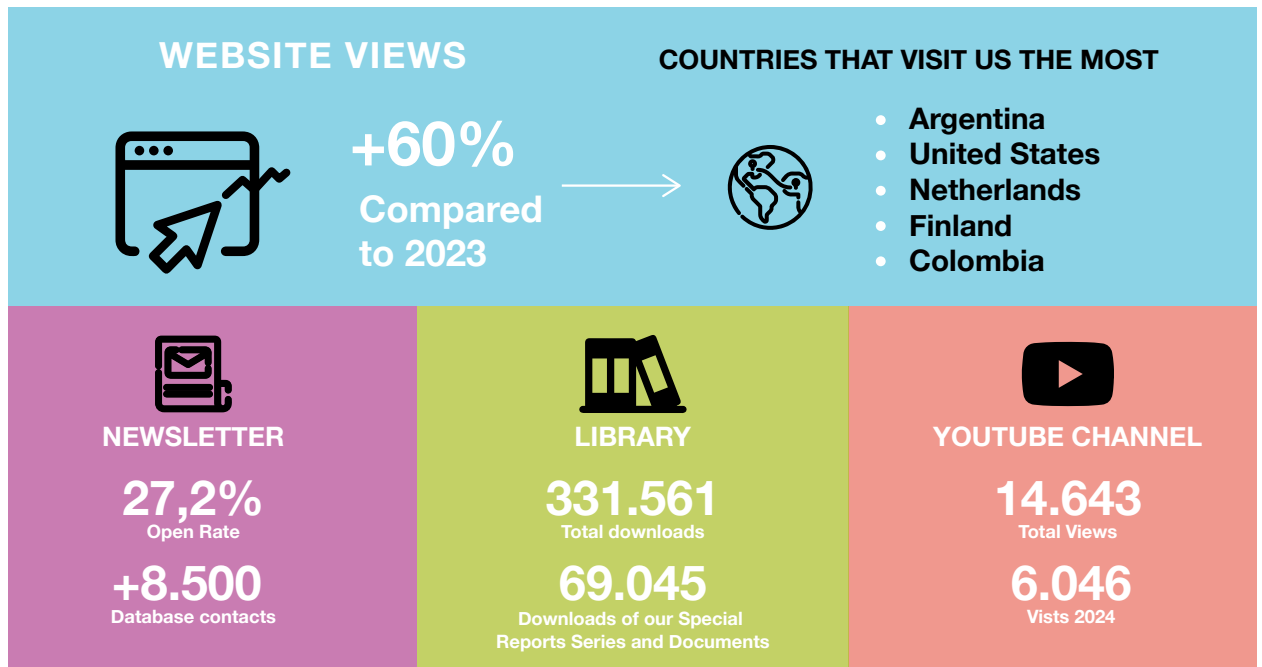
- Our WGs and advisors are 95% volunteers. These resources are translated into donated hours composed of WG participation, teaching workshops, seminars and trainings, writing, reviews, and edition of publications.
- In a similar way, our partner institutions (*foundations, institutes, universities, and 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 functioning 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.

In 2024, the sources of resources of our Institution were distributed as follows:



Communication

Throughout 2024, our website [ICCAS.org.ar](https://www.iccas.org.ar) has grown in terms of visits, exceeding by 65% those of the previous year. The most visited section is the **Activities** section (*Capacitaciones*), where all the information about the Institute's activities can be found.



The most downloaded documents are:

Risk vs. Hazard
– 6.838 downloads

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

Familiarity in the Context of Risk Assessment of Transgenic Crops: Focus on Some Countries in the America
– 6.833 downloads

Dietary Patterns in the Argentinian Population and Their Association with Sociodemographic Characteristics: Results from the ELANS Study (2014–2015)
– 6.252 downloads

Transportability of conclusions from confined field trials: a case study using the virus resistant transgenic bean developed in Brazil
– 5.947 downloads

The publications in our Document Series are also quite popular:

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

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

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

Microplastics in the Environment, a growing issue
– 3.123 downloads

Role of the Ethics Committee in Research
– 2.739 downloads

Conflict of Interest in Scientific Research
– 475 downloads

The most viewed videos are:

Dairy Intake & Diet Quality
– 3.277 views

*ICCAS' Institutional video*²¹
– 913 views

What do we know about SIBO?
– 875 views

Habits, Diet and Food Groups in Argentina: How do they combine?
– 740 vistas

Picky eaters... feeding difficulties
– 638 vistas

We continue working on expanding our social media platforms:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- X (antes Twitter)

2025 Projects & Proposals

ICCAS will continue to promote capacity building and the dissemination of scientific topics that are of interest to our community.

The Lunchtime Talks Series will continue adding new topics and expanding our scope.

In 2025, our Working Groups will focus on these areas:

☀️ **FOOD, NUTRITION & HEALTH:**

- IV Continuing Education on the Treatment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity: first call for applications for this training course for doctors has already been launched. More information here.

☀️ **RISK ANALYSIS & TOXICOLOGY:**

- Topics of interest: Pharma-contamination of waters and Nano and Microplastics²².
- Together with the Biotechnology WG, risk assessment of topic ARN for pest and disease control.

☀️ **BIOTECHNOLOGY:**

- Manuscript on the biosafety criteria for genetically modified microorganisms.
- Abstracts will be submitted to both ISBR and REDBIO.
- New topics: novel processes for food production and risk assessment considerations.

☀️ **SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY:**

- The VII Forum on Responsible Communication on Science and Health will be held in 2025.
- Open conference with an expert in Conflict of Interest.
- Will continue to work on Critical Reading with the Workshops organized by InfoAlimentos.
- Document on the integrity of the evidence used for decision-making.
- Will work on a Resource Guide that collects scientific integrity policies and tools for the management of conflicts of interest in research.

iccas.org.ar



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

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