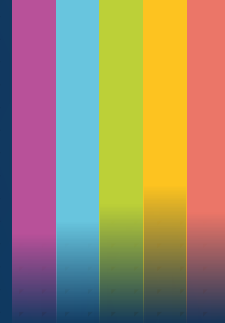


Annual Report
December 2021



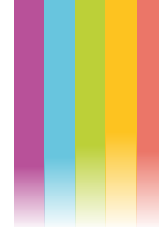
ICCAS 2021

Annual Report

iccas.org.ar

Institute for Scientific Cooperation in Environment and Health





From ICCAS' President

Dra. Clara Rubinstein

For the second year in a row, the pandemic has marked our everyday lives, our work, our studies, and particularly, our health, not only because of the effect of the virus but also due to the challenges of the care and prevention.

In this scenario, we launched ICCAS, a renewed space of interaction and cooperation, convinced that the innovation and the creative solutions come from the combinations of different knowledge and experiences.

The challenges we all have faced the past year haven't stopped us from continuing to build and share and sharing knowledge, on the contrary, they have motivated us even more to enable public-private collaborations on life sciences.

Thanks to our collaborators, working group members, invited experts and the institutions that are part of our ecosystem, ICCAS has been able to keep on contributing to the capacity building of professionals on several [science-based topics](#), [publish informative documents](#) and [research in peer review journals](#).

Additionally, in the course of the year, ICCAS took part in both [national and international scientific congress](#), and co-organized the [III Forum on Responsible Communication on Science and Health](#), a very important issue for our Institute and the Scientific Integrity working group.

Our new website has received over 75,000 visits in its first six months; the series of "ICCAS Talks at noon" has over 3,100 views and our publications have been viewed and/or downloaded over 6,800 times.

We know that the challenges ahead of us are not few... among them, move forward with our mission to bring scientific knowledge closer to society and focus on important issues related to human health and the environment, such as access to safe water, data generation for evidence-based decision making, or sustainable food and feed.

As Dr. Syril Petit, HESI's Director, says: "The scientific actors must defy ourselves and our own groups to be directly involved in critical health and safety issues". **"We must be part of the conversation to erase the artificial boundaries that divide the disciplines, increase our empathy and put science at the service of real problems"**.

At ICCAS we are committed to this line of thinking and hope that you could join us in this challenging and engaging path.

Our gratitude and the best wishes for this new year,

ICCAS' family

A close-up photograph of a human hand, palm facing up. A vibrant rainbow spectrum of light is projected onto the palm, starting with blue and purple on the left, transitioning through green and yellow in the center, and ending with orange and red on the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

— Activities & publications 2021

In 2021, the Institute for Scientific Cooperation in Environment and Health (in Spanish: ICCAS) has conducted several activities and published numerous articles, both in peer-review journals and as part of our Series of Documents and Special Reports.

Talks ICCAS at noon

The series of Talks ICCAS at noon, short, open and update talks, we opened a new chapter as a transdisciplinary interaction space on cutting edge science, emerging issues, responsible communication, and capacity building, always focusing on the collaborative work.



REAL TIME FUTURE: 2020-2030: IS IT THE LIFE SCIENCE'S DECADE?

In this first talk about Innovation, **Sebastián Campanario** presented about the growing role that the “life sciences” are taking as the main factor in a transition process that is getting faster day by day. In his presentation, some of the most relevant and interesting trends on this dynamic were analyzed.

[More information about this Talks. Watch the video](#)



EATING DISORDERS AND THE PANDEMIC

“The pandemic: a booster for the eating disorders? A conversation between experts”, was presented by Drs. **Cecile Herscovici**, **Irina Kovalskys** and **Juana Poulisis**. During their presentation, they discussed and exchanged about the challenges they faced related with the eating disorders during the lockdown.

[More information about this talk. Watch the video](#)



FOOD AND FEED RISKS

Dr. **Fernando Cardini** presented about: “Perceived Risks vs. Real Risks in food and feed”. In this talk, he shared basic notions of risk in human health, focusing on those we perceive as high, and those underrated that we should pay more attention to.

[More information about this talk. Watch the video](#)



LET'S TALK ABOUT GENE EDITING

The last talk ICCAS at noon of 2021 was conducted by Dr. **Gabriela Levitus** about Gene Editing, a precision tool applied to breeding that allows override or delete disease susceptibility genes or improve the flavor, nutrition or durability of the products. As a result, it is obtained crops resistant to bacteria and fungus.

[More information about this talk. Watch the video](#)

– Capacity building

Program of the workshop:

Module I

- *Regulatory and international trade*

Module II

- *Codex Alimentarius*

Module III

- *Global residue package*

Módulo IV

- *Regulatory studies on crops – Vegetables metabolism*

Módulo V

- *Regulatory studies on crops – Residue scale*

Módulo VI

- *Calculation of MRL*

Módulo VII

- *Risk communication: is it better not to talk about certain things?*

CAPACITACIONES ICCAS

TALLER

ASPECTOS REGULATORIOS DE RESIDUOS Y COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL

Desde el miércoles 29 de septiembre hasta el miércoles 10 de noviembre



WORKSHOP ON PESTICIDES RESIDUES

Our WG on Risk Analysis and Toxicology organized the Workshop on Regulatory and international trade of Pesticides.

This activity was conducted from October 29th and November 10th in seven consecutive weekly modules where different topics of this area were addressed. The speakers were both national and international experts, from the public and private sector.

VIDEOS: WORLD FOOD DAY

As part of the celebration of the World Food Day, ICCAS invited three professionals to answer some questions to know more about food.



What is the importance of applying food science for having a more nutritious diet?

Dr. Susana Socolovsky



**Food production.
The work of the Rural Women Network**

Eng. María Beatriz “Pilu” Giraudo



**Sustainable diets
Sergio Britos**

Watch the videos on our YouTube channel²

The theme of this year was: *Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, better environment, and a better life.*

FORUM ON RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATION

For the third consecutive year, ICCAS was part of the organization of the Argentine Forum on Responsible Communication on Science and Health, the theme this year was: “Why trust Science?”



A report on the 2021 Forum issue is available on Infoalimentos website and the video has over 700 views. Watch the video

The Forum brings together journalists, communicators, health and science professionals, and general public to talk about reliability of the scientific activity, focusing on the reality of the scientific process, its visibility during the pandemic (and if this is here to stay) and the concept of “expert” as a reference for society.

Like in the previous years, the organizers of the Forum were the institutions that constitute InfoAlimentos³ (ArgenBio, Barceló Foundation and ICCAS).

¹ The World Food Day is celebrated on October 16th and it aims to raise awareness about the global problem regarding food and feed and the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. [Learn more here](#)

² The videos are in Spanish

³ InfoAlimentos is the Argentine Council of Food Safety and Nutrition. Its mission is to provide science based information about food safety targeted to health professionals, communicators and general public.

Participations

Over the course of 2021, and as part of ICCAS' collaborative network work mission, we have taken part on several Congresses and other activities organized by other institutions.

SIBSA CONGRESS

ICCAS participated in the I Virtual Ibero-American Environmental Health Congress: *"Environmental Health, Syndemic and 2030 Agenda"* by organizing the Symposium: *"Multisectorial Scientific Cooperation on Environment and Health"*.

Both national and international speakers from the public and private sector focused on the importance of interdisciplinary work, how to promote it, and which is the role of the institutions in achieving more cooperation among sectors.

[Watch the video](#)

In addition, as part of the Pre Congress activities, ICCAS conducted a RISK21⁴ Workshop, presented by Drs. **Eliana Munarriz** and **Ariana Rossen**, members of our Risk Analysis and Toxicology Working Group.

ARGENTINE TOXICOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

ICCAS took part in the XXII Argentine Congress on Toxicology, we submitted a poster and an oral presentation. *"Contributions of interdisciplinary work to strengthen the knowledge of toxicology and risk assessment"* was presented by Dr. **Ligia Romeo**, member of our Risk Analysis and Toxicology Working Group, in which she reviewed the more than 10 years of the group's history.



[See the poster](#)

ACTIVITIES



Total activities
10

Participations: **3**
Organized: **7**



Total speakers
31

Academy:	Government:	Industry:	Associations and others:
6	5	6	14



Local speakers: **22**



International speakers: **9**

⁴ RISK21 is a webtool developed by HESI aimed at developing a scientific, transparent, and efficient approach to the evolving world of human health risk assessment.

– Publications

During 2021, ICCAS has published papers in peer reviewed journals and as part of our Special Reports and Documents Series.

All publications are available on our website.

Special Reports Series



SHELF LIFE OF FOOD

“Shelf life of Food: What do we know? Contributions to the reduction of food waste” is part of ICCAS Special Reports Series and was written by the members of our Food Waste Reduction Working Group.

It collects information related to the setting and communication of the shelf life of food from different technological perspectives, as well as from the level of understanding and interpretation of the terms used in the labels by consumers.

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

Documents Series

ICCAS' Documents Series are short outreach publications regarding issues of interest for our community.

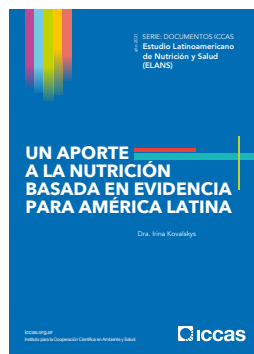


DOCUMENT ON ARSENIC

This publication was written by Dr. **Valentina Olmos**, biochemist and pharmacist, professor of Toxicology at the School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry of the University of Buenos Aires and member of our Risk Analysis and Toxicology Working Group.

“Attention Arsenic! Why is it the bad guy?” aims to explain what this element is, where it can be found and what precautions should we take.

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

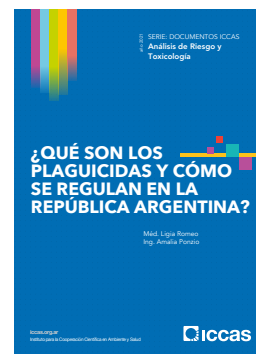


ELANS REPORT

In “ELANS: Contributions to an Evidence Based Nutrition for Latin America”, Dr. **Irina Kovalskys**, PI of the Project details some of the most relevant data collected throughout the Latin American Study on Nutrition and Health (ELANS), not only in Argentina but also in all Latin America.

It answers some of these questions: Which are the most consumed foods? What happens with the diet of women of childbearing age? What incidence does the socioeconomic level have on the diet?

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



ARTICLE ON PESTICIDES. What are pesticides and how are they regulated in Argentina?

This publication, authored by Eng. **Amalia Ponzio** and **Ligia Romeo MD**, aims to define “Pesticide” and describe the regulatory framework for this type of products in Argentina.

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

Articles published in peer-review journals

HEALTHY AGING PROJECT

As part of the work ICCAS does on Health, an observational study was conducted on senior citizens of the city of Buenos Aires. The aim of this research was to explore and describe psychosocial, nutritional, physical aptitude and activity aspects of this population.

“*Psychosocial and nutritional aspects, physical fitness and activity in six retirement centers of Buenos Aires City*” was published at the Argentine Magazine of Public Health and shows the results of the Study. [More information](#)

ELANS Project

ELANS Project⁵ continues to generate information about food intake and physical activity among Latin America populations. In 2021, ICCAS has participated in the publication of the following articles:



With these publications, the Latin American Study of Nutrition and Health has more than 50 published articles.

– *Socioeconomic Status Impact on Diet Quality and Body Mass Index in Eight Latin American Countries: ELANS Study Results*

– *Inadequacy of micronutrients in Argentine adolescents and adults from the urban population. Results of the Latin American Study of Nutrition and Health (ELANS)*

– *Food Sources of Shortfall Nutrients among Latin Americans: Results from the Latin American Study of Health and Nutrition (ELANS)*

More information about the impact of this Project

– *A Comparison of Associations Between Self-Reported and Device-Based Sedentary Behavior and Obesity Markers in Adults: A Multi-National Cross-Sectional Study*

– *Accelerometer-Measured Daily Step Counts and Adiposity Indicators among Latin American Adults: A Multi-Country Study*

PUBLICATIONS



Total publications

10

Type:

ICCAS Documents Series	3
Special Reports Series	1
Peer review journals	6

By area:



Health:

7



Environment:

2



Sustainable food

1

⁵ For further information about ELANS Project and the complete list of publications, both regional and national [click here](#)

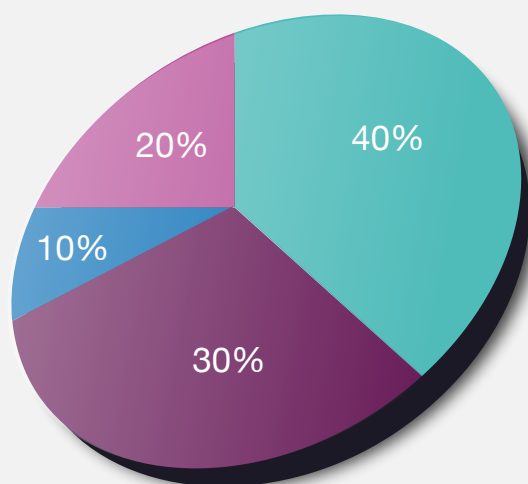
_ About ICCAS resources

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

- Our WGs and advisors are 90% volunteer. These resources are translated into donated hours, expertise, teaching workshops and trainings, writing, revision and edition of publications.
- In a similar way, the institutions which we work with (foundations, institutes, universities and government agencies) provide in kind resources: from access to venues and digital platforms, to grants for specific projects.
- The companies that support ICCAS contribute to the activities and to the proper working of the Institution in a collaborative way, which means that a joint fund is established that is administered according to the Institution's strategic plan, in a participatory and transparent decision-making process, coordinated by the working groups.

Budget Distribution

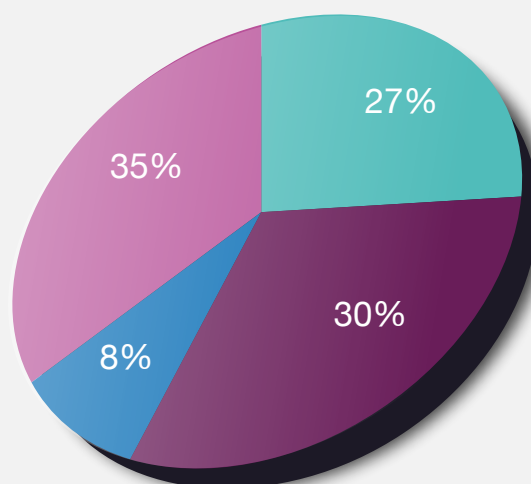
In 2021, the funding sources have been distributed in this way:



- Membership fees
- Volunteer hours
- In kind
- Grants⁶

Distribution of Expenses

The expenses of our Institution are divided as follows:



- ICCAS Launch
- Scientific Program (Activities, Publications and Capacity Building)
- WG's Operation
- Institutional Operation



Communications

- Since its launching on April 26th 2021, our website [ICCAS.org.ar](https://www.iccas.org.ar) has been visited over 75,000 times.
- The site has a **Library** where all publications, Special Reports Series, Documents Series and peer review articles are available.
- Our Newsletter, **ICCAS Informa**, is received by over 6,500 people and has an opening rate of 23%.
- In the **Actualidad** section of the site information about the news of our Institute, publications, and upcoming and past activities is available.
- We continue to work on growing our social media networks to continue making known the Institution and its main activities. Currently, you can find us at:
[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [Twitter](#)
- And, finally, we have a YouTube channel, **ICCAS Ciencia**, where the recordings of our activities are available.

Most downloaded documents in 2021

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

Poster Risk Analysis and Toxicology WG
– 1.931 downloads

Poverty as a determinant of food quality in Argentina. Results of the Argentine Study of Nutrition and Health (EANS)
– 1.117 downloads

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

Risk vs. Danger
– 611 downloads

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