



President's Message

Dr. Ninoska Abreu-Placeres

It is with great joy that we present the publication of our newsletter for the year 2022. During this year, the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI) has been dedicated to collaborating and supporting oral health education projects for the region's population. Together with various associations and institutions in the Caribbean and Latin American region, we have worked towards the goal of achieving a healthy population and encouraging healthy habits.

In the first months of the year we supported Gum Health Week. During this week we collaborated with the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA) in a campaign preparing different infographics and videos to educate the population. These carried the message, "Healthy Mouth - Healthy Body." This campaign reached all the Latin American countries. We also supported the 5K Walk for Oral Health held in the Dominican Republic.

This year, we have also been working with the LAOHA Cariology Group on the Consensus on Cariology in Latin American countries. In addition, COHI participated in the "Call for Action: Caries Consensus for the countries of LATAM and the Caribbean," held on October 14, the World Cavity-Free Future Day. Another event organized by COHI in conjunction with the Dominican College of Dentists was the Symposium, "Oral and Systemic Health: Relationship between Oral Health and Systemic Health." This event had simultaneous translation and transmission through the Zoom platform, so dentists from all over the region were able to participate virtually.

An important achievement to highlight this year is that after a call for scholarships, a new doctoral fellow who is studying at the University of São Paulo was selected. With these scholarships, COHI makes a contribution to the different countries of the region. The aim is to carry out quality research in different areas of dentistry. I am especially grateful to the members of the executive committee and collaborators of COHI for all their dedication and determination during this year as we work in order to achieve positive changes in the population's oral health in the Caribbean region.

Executive committee

2021 - 2023



Ninoska Abreu-Placeres
President



Arvind Babu Rajendra Santosh
Vice President



Vivianna Tavárez
Secretary



Ramón González
Treasurer



Augusto Elías
Former President



Irma Mauriz
Corporate,
Colgate-Palmolive



Bernal Stewart
Executive Director



Zilson Malheiros
Corporate,
Colgate-Palmolive



Gum Health Week

 <p>Día de la salud de las encías</p>	<p>Proteger y educar a la familia, cuidando su salud bucal y así transmitiendo buenos hábitos de generación en generación.</p> 	 <p>Mantener la salud bucal es importante para prevenir enfermedades a las encías y mantener nuestro cuerpo sano.</p>	<p>¿Cómo puedo mantener mis encías y cuerpo sano?</p>  <p>Cepillándose los dientes, Uso de hilo dental y enjuague bucal, Comiendo comida sana, Haciendo ejercicios y bebiendo agua, No fumes</p>	<p>Visita a tu dentista regularmente.</p>  <p>Ahora lo sabes. Cuida tus encías: Boca sana, cuerpo sano</p>	 <p>Haga su test y aprende más</p>
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From Monday, May 9 to Friday, May 13, the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA) and the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI) carried out the campaign, “Take Care of Your Gums: Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body,” led by the Group of LAOHA Periodontics.

During this week, we shared videos and multiple infographics on social networks with the aim of raising awareness and warning about periodontal diseases and their relationship with systemic diseases. These materials were disseminated by various dental societies throughout Latin America, including active participation from Caribbean countries.

This campaign was unique in that it allowed for personalization. The message was adapted to the country of dissemination, including logos of local societies that joined forces with this initiative. Likewise, dentists, dental clinics, and universities had the materials at their disposal to share them through their social networks.

Each day of the week had a particular theme:

Monday, May 9: Opening ceremony. Wellness and Oral Health.

Tuesday, May 10: Recognition of Signs and Early Action.

Wednesday, May 11: Oral Health during Pregnancy

Thursday, May 12: World Gum Health Day

Friday, May 13: Diabetes and Oral Health

Among the activities, a Gingival Health Self-test was included, accessed with a QR code, through which the participant was informed about their risk level of developing periodontal diseases from multiple-choice questions. Likewise, the self-test gave suggestions of the next steps to follow to achieve good periodontal health.

Additionally, as the campaign’s closure, health professionals were offered the opportunity to join and sign the “Manifeto for the Promotion of Periodontal Health of the Ibero-Pan-American Federation of Periodontics (FIPP) and the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA).”

Associations that supported Gum Health Day:





5K Walk for Oral Health

On Sunday, May 15, the first walk for oral health was held in the Dominican Republic. It was organized by the Dominican College of Dentists (CDO) the Dominican Society of Periodontics and Dental Implants (SODOPERIO), the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI), Allies for Dominican Oral Health, and Operation Smile.

This activity was carried out in the Mirador Sur park, where dentists, accompanied by family and friends, came together to show their support. COHI directly supported the activity, having an active participation in it. The objective was to raise awareness among the population about the importance of oral health, emphasizing how oral health affects general health and the relevance of having a healthy mouth to have a healthy body. Hence, COHI's motto for the walk was: Healthy Mouth = Healthy Body.





Consensus on Cariology in Latin American Countries



On September 12 and 13, a meeting was held at El Bosque University in Colombia to reach a Consensus on Cariology in Latin American countries. This meeting was organized by the LAOHA Cariology Group. On behalf of COHI, Dr. Zilson Malheiros and Dr. Ninoska Abreu Placeres attended.

During this two-day meeting, the participants worked on reaching a consensus on the competencies and contents of cariology that should be taught in the different universities of the region.

Collaborators of this consensus		
Name	Country	Affiliation
Aldo Squassí	Argentina	Cariology Group- International Association for Dental Research (IADR/LAR)
Constanza E. Fernández	Chile	Cariology Group- International Association for Dental Research (IADR/LAR)
Lupe Salazar Zurita	Panama	Latin American Dental Federation (FOLA), Latin American Regional Organization of the World Dental Federation (LARO)
María Isabel Pardo Silva	Colombia	Organization of Faculties and Schools of Dentistry / Union of Latin American Universities (OFEDO-UDUAL)
Mauricio García	Colombia	Colombian Dental Federation (FOC)
Sylvia Gudiño Fernández	Costa Rica	Latin American Association of Operative Dentistry and Biomaterials (ALODYB)
Fernando Neves Hugo	Brasil	International Association for Dental Research (IADR/LAR)- Geriatric Dentistry (GLIOG)
Mónica González	Colombia	Colombian Association of Aesthetic Operative Dentistry and Biomaterials (ACODEB)
Olga Lucía Zarta	Colombia	Colombian Association of Prosthodontics (ACP)
Amaury Pozos Guilleén	Mexico	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí
Fabio Sampaio	Brasil	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Universidade Federal da Paraíba
Miriam Bullen	Panama	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Universidad de Panamá
Ninoska Abreu Placeres	Dominican Republic	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI), Universidad Iberoamericana
Rodrigo A. Giacaman Sarah	Chile	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Universidad de Talca
Vicente Aránguiz Freyhofer	Chile	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Universidad de los Andes Chile
Viviana Ávila Adarme	Colombia	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Caries Research Unit (UNICA)
Andrea Cortes	Colombia	Action 2- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Caries Research Unit (UNICA)
Ana Karina Velasco	Colombia	Action 2- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Caries Research Unit (UNICA)
Sofía Jácome Liévano	Colombia	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Caries Research Unit (UNICA)
Stefanía Martignon	Colombia (UK)	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Caries Research Unit (UNICA)
Zilson Malheiros	Brazil	Core Team- Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA), Colgate
Margherita Fontana	United States	President- European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA), Past President- American Academy of Cariology (AAC)
Ruth Santamaría	Alemania	Education Platform Director- European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA)
Paulo Melo	Portugal	Adviser- World Dental Federation (FDI)
Jorge Luis Castillo	Peru	President- International Association of Pediatric Dentistry (IAPD)



Panel: Oral Health in Integral Infant Health

Pediatricians, pediatric dentists and pediatric residents attended the panel, “Oral Health in Comprehensive Infant Health” on October 6. This event was held in the Auditorium of the Universidad Iberoamericana, as part of the educational activities and collaboration with pediatricians carried out by the Center for Research in Biomaterials and Dentistry (CIBO-Unibe) in the Dominican Republic. This activity is part of the projects that COHI has been supporting in the region in order to improve the oral health of the population. Working in collaboration with pediatricians has been one of our initiatives to help families receive oral health education early, especially considering the importance of oral health during childhood.

The invited panelists were the pediatricians Rafael Mena Canto, Juan Carlos Toral and Claudia Scharf. The conversation was moderated by Dr. Ninoska Abreu Placeres.





Participation in the XXIV National and International Congress of the Dominican College of Dentists



On October 8, the Caribbean Oral Health initiative in collaboration with the Dominican College of Dentists and Colgate held a symposium entitled “Oral and Systemic Health: Relationship between Oral Health and Systemic Health.” The participants were Dr. Tulio Ramírez, cardiologist, and Dr. Adolfo Contreras, dentist and expert in periodontal medicine. This symposium was held within the framework of the XXIV National and International Congress of the Dominican College of Dentists in the Dominican Republic. This scientific event was moderated by Dr. James Collins from the Dominican Republic.

This was a hybrid activity with simultaneous translation into English, where professionals from different countries in the region were able to participate.





Call for action (2nd edition) Consensus on Caries for Latin American Countries

LLAMADO A LA ACCIÓN
2ª EDICIÓN

CONSENSO SOBRE CARIES
PARA LOS PAÍSES DE AMÉRICA LATINA

15 de octubre

10h30 (GMT-3) • Traducción Simultánea (Ing, Esp, Port)

Consulte el programa →

@laohaorg
LAOHA

Programación:

Introducción:
Dr. Nigel Pitts
King's College London

Acción 1:
Dr. Saul Paiva
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - UFMG, Brasil.
Título: Diagnóstico Situacional de las Políticas de América Latina y el Caribe sobre Consumo de Azúcar y Uso de Flúor.

Acción 2:
Dra. Stefania Martignon
UNICA - Universidad El Bosque, Colombia.
Título: Consenso Latinoamericano en Español de Enseñanza en Cariología para Facultades de Odontología.

Acción 3:
Dr. Fabio Sampaio
Universidade Federal de Paraíba - UFPB, Brasil.
Título: Desarrollo de un Consenso para la Enseñanza de la Caries Dental en las Facultades de Odontología Brasileñas.

LAOHA

The Cariology Group of the Latin American Oral Health Association (LAOHA) celebrated the “World Cavity-Free Future Day,” on October 15.

The initiative, originally conceived by the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future, was commemorated with a Virtual Symposium entitled, “Call to Action: Caries Consensus for the Countries of LATAM and the Caribbean.” The objective of this Symposium was to present the result of the initiative to prevent and control dental caries in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LACC: Latin American and Caribbean Countries).

The pillars defined as part of the regional challenge were the following:

- Collect information on policies/guidelines on fluoridated toothpastes and management of the consumption of free sugars for the prevention of caries.
- Discuss the development of a cariology core curriculum at LACC.

Program:

Dr. Nigel Pitts: A Cavitational Cavity-Free Future for the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean: Let's Brush Our Teeth.

Dr. Saul Paiva: Action 1 - Situational Diagnosis of Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean on the Reduction of Sugar Consumption and Fluoride Use.

Dr. Stefania Martignon: Action 2 - Latin American Consensus on Teaching in Cariology for Dental Schools, in Spanish.

Dr. Fabio Sampaio: Action 3 - Development of a Consensus for the Teaching of Dental Caries in Brazilian Dental Schools.



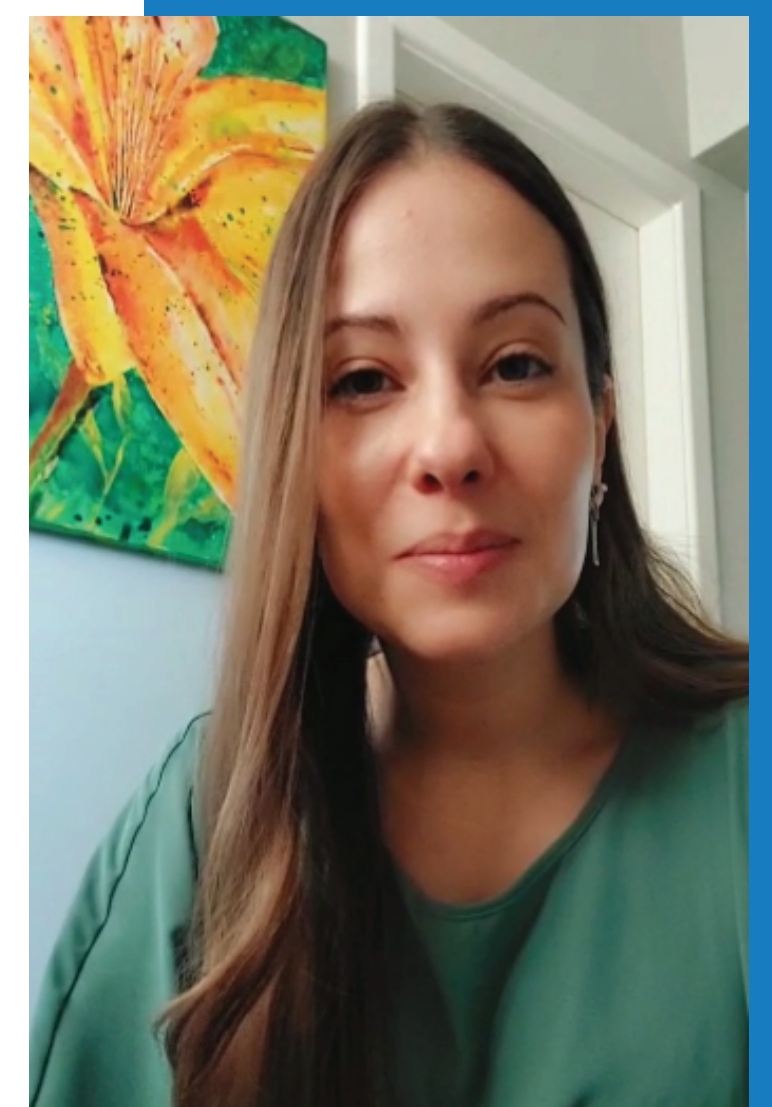
World Diabetes Day

On November 14, World Diabetes Day was commemorated, for which the LAOHA Periodontology Group, in collaboration with COHI and Colgate-Palmolive, carried out an awareness campaign highlighting the link between oral health and systemic well-being.

The initiative was supported by the Latin American Diabetes Association (ALAD), the National Institute of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Nutrition of the Dominican Republic (INDEN) and various dental societies in Latin America, such as the Ibero-Pan American Federation of Periodontics (FIPP), the Latin American Dental Federation (FOLA), among other entities.

The campaign used social network platforms, especially Instagram, through which societies, as well as dentists in particular, were able to share the following tools in three different languages, Spanish, English, and Portuguese:

- Selfie photos with a special filter carrying a commemorative message of this day.
- Infographics and animations in various formats.
- Video of Dr. José E. Costa Gil, president of the Latin American Diabetes Association.
- Video of Dr. Jenny Cepeda, diabetologist and senior researcher at Unibe.
- Video of Dr. Paula Yunes, periodontist, member of the LAOHA Periodontics Group, professor at the Universidad Iberoamericana.
- Video of Dr. Giuseppe Romito, periodontist, tenured professor and deputy director of the School of Dentistry of the University of São Paulo.
- Video of Dr. Nidia Castro, periodontist and professor at the University of Guarulhos and the Forsyth Institute.



Dra. Nidia Castro dos Santos
Periodontista, Professora na UNG
e no Forsyth Institute



Workshop: Aspects Related to the Implementation of the Latin American Consensus on Teaching in Cariology

During the month of November, with the support of COHI and LAOHA, we held the workshop, “Aspects related to the implementation of the Latin American Consensus on Teaching in Cariology.” It was presented by Dr. Stefania Martignon, Sofía Jácome, Andrea Cortés and Angie Sanabria from Universidad El Bosque in Colombia and also Dr. Ninoska Abreu, current president of COHI, from the Universidad Iberoamericana in the Dominican Republic. This academic activity was carried out in two different contexts, the first aimed at educators and the second at directors and deans of dental schools.



The workshop for educators was held at the Universidad Iberoamericana, and cariology teachers (theory and practice) from all dental schools in the Dominican Republic participated. In the same way, the workshop for directors and deans of dentistry in Latin America was held at the meeting and assembly of the Organization of Faculties and Schools of Dentistry (OFEDO) in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

As part of the workshop, the participants heard an explanation of the process of developing the Latin American Consensus on Teaching in Cariology carried out by the LAOHA cariology group. Also, they worked in teams to actively discuss the current situation of teaching in cariology in the participating institutions and the changes that must be made in the different faculties in order to implement the consensus.





Meet our new Fellow Dr. Raysa Álvarez

Dr. Raysa Álvarez, is from the Dominican Republic, graduated in dentistry from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD). She completed her graduate degree at the Catholic University of Santo Domingo (UCSD), obtaining a specialty in Pediatric Dentistry. Currently, she is in the second year of the master's degree in Higher Education.

Dr. Álvarez practices pediatric dentistry privately and collaborates with a health center in a neighborhood with a vulnerable population in Santo Domingo Este. This year, after participating in the call for COHI PhD scholarships, Dr. Álvarez was selected as a scholarship holder to carry out her PhD studies at the University of São Paulo with Professor Marcelo Bönecker.

“I feel very lucky to have been selected as a fellow of the Caribbean Oral Health Initiative (COHI) to carry out my doctoral studies in cariology at the University of São Paulo, which is one of the most important universities in Latin America. With this, I will be able to promote the development of various research and collaboration projects in cariology, which would have a great impact for the Dominican Republic and the entire Caribbean. In the same way, this scholarship will allow me to apply the results of the research in other projects for the benefit of various Caribbean countries in search of encouraging the improvement of the quality of life of our population.”