



# FELACC

## LATIN AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS: PRESENT AND FUTURE

Vidal Rodríguez-Lemoine<sup>1</sup>, Mirtha Floccari<sup>2</sup>, Silvia Giono Cerezo<sup>3</sup>, Zulia Weng Alemán<sup>4</sup>, Gladys Martos<sup>5</sup>, Lilian Loperana<sup>6</sup>, Maria Mercedes Panizo<sup>7</sup>, Sueli Correa Marques de Mello<sup>8</sup>, Graciela Davel<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>vrodriguezlemoine@gmail.com (Venezuela), <sup>2</sup>mir@qb.fcen.uba.ar (Argentina), <sup>3</sup>sgiono@yahoo.com (Mexico), <sup>4</sup>weng@infomed.sld.cu (Cuba), <sup>5</sup>martos@cerela.org.ar (Argentina), <sup>6</sup>lilianl@fing.edu.uy (Uruguay), <sup>7</sup>mmpanizo@gmail.com (Venezuela), <sup>8</sup>ismello@cenargen.embrapa.br (Brazil), <sup>9</sup>gdavel@anlis.gov.ar (Argentina)

### FELACC

Is a nonprofit academic organization founded in 2004, in order to promote actions for development of culture collections in Latin American and The Caribbean countries.

### OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To provide a framework to encourage regional activities and studies on microbial biology, *ex situ* preservation of microbial diversity.
- ◆ To supply services and advices to the scientific community, industry, agriculture, medicine, veterinary, education and environment preservation.
- ◆ To encourage regional research activities between affiliated collections, universities and institutes.

### MEMBERSHIPS

#### 48 Culture Collections

Keeping together over 52.937 cultures representatives of different taxonomic groups of bacteria, fungi, animal viruses, mammalian cell cultures, as well as bacteriophages, plasmids and cloning vectors.

COLLECTIONS	Institutional members	Ordinary members	Cooperative members	Total
Argentina	18	7	1	26
Brazil	6	3	1	10
Colombia	1	5		6
Cuba	10			10
Ecuador	2	1		3
Mexico	5			5
Uruguay	2	1		3
Venezuela	4	3		7
Paraguay		1		1
Total	48	21	2	71



### ACTIVITIES

#### Attendance to congress and scientific meetings

- ◆ V SIERGEALC-Montevideo (2005): *Microorganisms genetic resources*.
- ◆ XVIII ALAM-Pucon-Chile (2008). *Latin American Federation of Microbial Culture Collections*.
- ◆ VI CLAM, Mar del Plata (2008). *Culture collections and its services in Latin America*.
- ◆ V Seminar on microbial collections. The importance of conservation and collections of microorganisms. Mexico (2009).
- ◆ VII SIRGEALC Pucon-Chile (2009). *Preservation of microbial biodiversity*.

#### Different issues...

Data base and on line catalogues  
Biosecurity and transport  
Website, newsletters and training courses  
Methods for long time conservation  
Quality control  
Reference and strains certification

- ◆ Since 2004, a database on cultures preserved in the region is being structured. Update information is available at: [www.aam.org.ar](http://www.aam.org.ar) and <http://www.wfcc.info/network.html>
- ◆ FELACC members participate with other organizations in programs for *ex situ* microbial preservation world wide.

Up to now, the number of culture collections affiliated to FELACC is considered small in relation to the total amount existent in the region, but this organism represents a significant effort in the maintenance of a network between regional institutions, in order to make more efficient the *ex-situ* preservation of microbial diversity

#### REFERENCES

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Manfio GP, Canhos VP. Culture collections in South America. In: Culture Collections to Improve the Quality of Life. Samson et al., eds. ISBN 90-70351-33-1. 1996. pp 217- 220.  
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