



Inorganic Chemistry in Latin America

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The *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* takes pride in showcasing the high-quality research produced by some of the currently most active scientists in Latin America. With this

initiative, we seek to highlight the breadth and depth of the science developed in the region, and to enhance its visibility in the wider chemistry community.

In recent years, the field of inorganic chemistry has been growing rapidly in Latin America, as reflected by the number of publications from the region in specialized journals (Figure 1). Given the challenges posed by the limited public investment on R&D in the region,^[1] the dissemination of knowledge, and the sharing of expertise among the members of the community are crucial to increasing the impact of Latin American science in general, and of inorganic chemistry in particular. The creation of solid collaboration networks is key to these efforts. Since its first edition in 2007, the Latin American Symposium on Coordination and Organometallic Chemistry (*SILQCOM*) has established itself as the main platform for networking within the continent and with the international community.

SILQCOM was founded in Bogotá, Colombia with the intention of strengthening the scientific collaborations among Latin American countries. Inspired by the late Prof. Roberto Sánchez-Delgado, at that time director of the Chemistry Department at the Venezuelan Institute for Chemical Investigation (IVIC), and thanks to his connections and knowledge, the

organizing committee was able to bring internationally renowned researchers to Latin America. This initiative motivated and supported both the well-established coordination chemistry and the organometallic chemistry communities, which were growing strongly in those years. *SILQCOM* regularly takes place every two years in venues in different Latin American countries, and it has been successful at promoting the development of a network of scientific collaborations, as reflected in the increased mobility of graduate students and the high quality of collaborative projects, with results being published in major scientific journals.

The quality of the research developed in the region notwithstanding – in areas that range from coordination to organometallic chemistry, and from inorganic materials to catalysis –, Latin American scientists remain underrepresented in scientific committees, speaker line-ups, editorial boards, and as authors in high-impact journals. As part of the efforts of *Chemistry Europe* journals to increase the diversity of its authors, reviewers and editorial board members, *Inorganic Chemistry in Latin America* was conceived as a venue to showcase the high-quality research produced in the region. We are confident that this Special Collection will lead to an increased visibility of Latin American scientists, to further regional and international

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Figure 1. Number of publications from Latin America in inorganic chemistry journals: *Dalton Transactions*, *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry*, *Inorganic Chemistry* and *Organometallics*.^[2]



Ivan Castillo is Professor of inorganic chemistry at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City, and secretary general of the International Scientific Committee of the Latin American Symposium on Coordination and Organometallic Chemistry (SiLQCOM). He obtained his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley, working in organolanthanide chemistry with Prof. T. Don Tilley. Current research interests include the use of first-row transition metals for complexes inspired by Cu monooxygenases, NiFe hydrogenases, and FeV/FeMo nitrogenases, as well as supramolecular systems based on calixarenes. He is member of the International Advisory Board of the European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry.



Luca Fadini received his PhD in organometallic chemistry in the group of Prof. A. Togni at ETHZ in Zürich (Switzerland). He started his academic career at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogota, Colombia) where he became Associate Professor. In 2009 he moved to Switzerland as Project Leader in the Scientific Division of Helsinn Advanced Synthesis, where he is dedicated to the synthesis and development of new active pharmaceutical ingredients, with particular interest on Pd-catalyzed reactions. He has been collaborating for several years with the Professional University of Fribourg (HES Fribourg, Switzerland) for projects based on new technologies (flow chemistry) and Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions. He was founder of SiLQCOM and secretary general of the International Scientific Committee from 2007 to 2015.



Fabio Doctorovich, Full Professor at the University of Buenos Aires and Researcher at CONICET, obtained his PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1990. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology working with Prof. E.C. Ashby and K. Barefield, first on single electron transfer, and afterwards on chemical reactions taking place in nuclear waste tanks. Back in Argentina, he started to work on nitric oxide (NO), including organic nitroso compounds, inorganic iron, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium nitrosyl complexes, and reactivity of metalloporphyrins and pincer complexes towards HNO. He also worked on CO complexes, catalytic reactions, and other topics. Nowadays his main research focus is on reactions involving HNO. Prof. Doctorovich has published over 120 works in international journals such as *Accounts of Chemical Research*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Inorganic Chemistry*, *Nature Communications*, as well as the book *The Chemistry and Biology of Nitroxyl (HNO)* published by Elsevier in 2016. He has supervised 15 PhD students. In 2011 he received the Guggenheim Fellowship and in 2016 the Innovar Prize.



Liane M. Rossi is Full Professor of Chemistry at the University of São Paulo. She obtained her PhD in Chemistry from the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil, working on bio-inorganic chemistry, under the supervision of Prof. Ademir Neves. In 2004, after postdoctoral terms in Brazil and USA, she joined the Institute of Chemistry at University of São Paulo (IQUSP). Her research interests shifted to the field of heterogeneous catalysis, include novel approaches for the synthesis of supported metal nanoparticles with controlled size, morphology and surface properties, catalyst recovery and recycling, new reactivity patterns at metal-ligands interfaces, bimetallic and hybrid catalysts. The main catalytic processes under study are selective hydrogenations and oxidations, biomass conversion into chemicals, and CO₂ capture and conversion (CCU).



Sandra González-Gallardo obtained her PhD in main-group chemistry from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México under the supervision of Dr. Mónica Moya-Cabrera. After postdoctoral research at the Ruhr University Bochum, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, and Saarland University, she joined ChemCatChem in 2016 as Assistant Editor. She is currently Associate Editor of ChemCatChem and European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry. An advocate for diversity, she is part of the IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast Task Group, which has the goal of building a global network in support of the elimination of the gender gap in the chemical sciences.

collaborations, and we hope it will aid the representation of the region in the global chemistry landscape.

- [1] G. A. Lemarchand in *UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030*, 2nd Ed., UNESCO Publishing, Paris, 2016.
[2] *Web of Science*, Clarivate Analytics, Searched on December 4th, 2020.

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