



SOBOBIOCLI Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry

Factors influencing bolivian professionals to constitute the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry

1. The 1st CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS held in the Republic of Argentina, Mar del Plata, in December 1968 involved the representatives of several countries in Latin America and representatives from Bolivia including Dr. Mario Mostajo Baya. It was at this meeting that Dr. Baya signed the 1st Constitution, of what would come to be the Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry.

2. Bolivian professionals in Biochemistry from different departments of our country, working in the laboratories of Clinical Analysis that time, saw an urgent need to organize an institution that would allow them to develop collectively sharing knowledge and experiences in academia, science and technology. Several attempts were made to form a national umbrella organization of Bolivian biochemical

3. Professionals dedicated to Clinical Laboratory practice began to observe the permanent subjugation of the Biochemistry profession, by professionals from other areas of healthcare who were active in our professional field without the proper level of academic training. It was regarded as important to serve advocacy rights and legitimate interests. Ethics and dignity of the biochemistry profession, was also a valid argument for establishing a national initiative to work for all biochemical professionals of our country.

II. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE BOLIVIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

On his return to the city of Santa Cruz, after having participated in the 1st LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (held in Mar del Plata in the Republic of Argentina), Dr. Mario Mostajo Baya with colleagues, convened a meeting of the biochemical professionals dedicated to the activity of the Clinical Laboratory, and decide to form a transitional Directive (Ad-Hoc) Chaired by Dr. John Foainini, Dr.



Mario Mostajo Baya and Dr. Jaime Valdivia Borda. This group were entrusted with the preparation of the Statutes and Regulations of the entity that tied together the professional clinical chemists in Bolivia.

Subsequently, they called for the FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY that took place in the city of Santa Cruz from 14 to 17 February 1969. At this meeting the BOLIVIAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY was founded. Delegates from Beni, Tarija, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, approved the original documents and it was agreed to submit them for final approval to the BOLIVIAN CONFEDERATION OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACY (now School of Biochemistry and participate Pharmacy Bolivia). Likewise, a transition Executive Board (Ad-Hoc) was constituted. It was Chaired by Dr. John Foainini Banzer, Dr. Mario Mostajo Baya as Secretary, Dr. Diva Oquendo as Recording Secretary, and with the participation of delegate colleagues Dr. Rolando Romero (Santa Cruz Chief), Dr. Corina Paniagua (Tarija) Dr. Joseph Farah (CEO Beni) and other members assigned including Dr. Jaime Valdivia, Dr. Rodolfo Arauz, Naomi Burgos Peace, MD, Dr. Bruno Fresia. Dr Zaida Schwartzman, Dr. Oscar Moreno, Dr. Mario Chuquimia, Dr. Michael Torrico and Dr. Martha T. Romero. Later in 1970 and 1971, the group included Dr. Martha Lina Schwarm, Dr. Hortencia Duran, Dr. Romulo Calvo, Dr. Mark Fernandez and Dr. David Rosado.

In August 1971, at the VI National Congress of Biochemistry and Pharmacy, held in the city of Tarija from 1 to 5 August 1971, Dr. Jaime Valdivia and Dr. Marta Lina Schwarm presented all the relevant documentation and justification that supported the creation of our organization. At the conference, this initiative was supported by delegates from La Paz, Cochabamba, Tarija and at the 1st Plenary Meeting, and the creation of the national organization was approved, which later would come to be called the BOLIVIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY. The first Executive Board was formed by Dr. Jamie Valdivia Borda as President, Dr. Mario Mostajo Baya as Vice President and Dr. Mark Fernandez Melgar as Secretary General. At the event in the city of Tarija, biochemical professionals from around the country were involved, with the support of professional hosts, Dr. Mario Jose Briancon Beltram, Dr. Roberto Mendoza Zamora, Dr. German Paredes and others who supported this great initiative.





III. BOLIVIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY TODAY.

The BOLIVIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY has just celebrated 45 years of existence. During that period there were 20 Presidents of the Executive Council; many of them left a great legacy to our institution, which has a dynamic statute and flexible regulations that meet the demands of today's world governing scientific activity and biochemistry in our country, matters relating to professional practice, and other issues that apply to professionals providing services in both the private area and public institutions.

Throughout the history of our association, we have held 17 National Congresses, 30 National Scientific Conferences for professional development, 1 National-International Conference, Courses, Seminars and Workshops with broad participation of our country's biochemists. Also, there has been coordination with various institutions and organizations nationally and with international organizations that supported these initiatives. Worthy of mention are: Latin American Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry (COLABIOCLI); Brazilian Society of Clinical Analysis (SBAC); National Quality Control Program (PNCQ); Biochemistry Foundation Argentina (FBA); the Wiener Foundation; the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation; AACC; Biochemical Unified Confederation of Argentina (MEET), and other international organizations that contributed to the scientific development and the consolidation of our organization as a scientific institution with academic activities. It represents professional Biochemists in Bolivia, without political or economic ends. The Bolivian association became the 86th Member of IFCC, which has opened the doors of the world to our organization, and allows access to a range of academic programs and scientific activities that are beneficial to colleagues, members of our organization.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) of the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry, chaired by Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz, with Dr. Lizandra Morales Jurado, as Vice President, Dr. Rocio Navarro Ramirez as General Secretary and others who contribute to the management of the association, for the period 2012-2015. It has its headquarters in the city of Tarija. In November 2015, the eighteenth ORDINARY NATIONAL CONGRESS will be held in Oruro. At that meeting, further to administrative and scientific events, the election of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry will be held.

The consolidation of the National Program for External Quality Control (PEEC) is among the goals of the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry. PEEC consolidation is an absolute necessity for the existence of clinical analysis laboratories, not only to ensure quality work but because it is a legal requirement in the process of licensing and accreditation of clinical laboratories in our country. Currently the policy of our



association is aimed to consolidate scientific agreements with national Bolivian authorities and institutions to make PEEC available to all laboratories in the country, and to address the important issue of regulations associated with Laboratory Accreditation.

A challenge for the laboratories in our country will be the accreditation process. The Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry is focussing its efforts towards this aim.

Dr. Alvaro Justiniano Grosz
PRESIDENT OF THE BOLIVIAN SOCIETY
OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

