

# **PNIRS**Ibero-America Annual Committee Report

June, 2022 – May, 2023

## **PNIRS**Ibero-America Committee Members, 2022-2023

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### **1. How **PNIRS**Ibero-America started**

The idea of **PNIRS**Ibero-America was born following a lecture of Dr. Keith Kelley at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where the growth and success of **PNIRS**Asia-Pacific was discussed. As young scientists, we are aware of the scientific potential of the region. Bringing together PNI researchers in the region could boost this likelihood. We therefore aimed to form a similar PNIRS standing committee that would focus on Ibero-America in order to expand knowledge of PNI to this region and to promote global PNI research collaborations.

## 2. Acceptance by the board members during the PNIRS meeting 2022 (Zurich, Switzerland)

The proposal to initiate **PNIRS Ibero-America** was presented to PNIRS President Neil Harrison and President-Elect Jeffrey Woods at the 2022 annual meeting (Zurich, Switzerland; Fig. 1). It was then presented to the PNIRS Board of Directors, who enthusiastically endorsed the concept of **PNIRS Ibero-America**.



Fig. 1. First formal meeting of **PNIRS Ibero-America** in Zurich, Switzerland in June 2022. From left to right: Neil Harrison, Jeffrey Woods, Keith W. Kelley, Maria Elisa Caetano-Silva, Izan Chalen, and Rafael González-Ricón.

## 3. Joint meeting **PNIRS Asia-Pacific** and **PNIRS Ibero-America**, introducing the proposal of a new PNIRS committee

This initiative was also discussed in a joint meeting with **PNIRS Asia-Pacific** during the PNIRS annual meeting (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. **PNIRS***Ibero-America* proposal presentation in Zurich, Switzerland in June 2022.

#### **4. Publication of our first view point in BBI Health**

We published a viewpoint article in *BBI-Health*, one of the sister official academic journals of PNIRS. In this article, we introduced the project **PNIRS***Ibero-America* to a broader audience of researchers, and we also described the aims of the committee and its scope.



Fig. 3. **PNIRS**Ibero-America view point published in *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity – Health*, 26 (2022).

### 5. Contact with PNI researchers in Ibero-America countries

We have been contacting several PNI researchers in Ibero-America countries seeking support for our initiative. We currently have contact information and lab websites of more than 50 names of respected PNI scientists from different Ibero-America regions interested in being part of **PNIRS**Ibero-America.

Among those researchers, we have successfully created collaborations with several respected and established scientists in the PNI field, including Professors Wilson Savino (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ), Brazil), Francesco Rossi (Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay), Licio Velloso (Universidade de Campinas, Brazil) and Deborah Suchecki (Universidade Paulista, Brazil). We have also contacted Universidad San Francisco (Ecuador | Spain) as a potential collaborator for future endeavors.

**6. Symposium proposal submission to FeSBE - *Federação de Sociedades de Biologia Experimental* (transl. Federation of Experimental Biology Societies) Annual Meeting (Buzios, Brazil – August 2023)**

Through our contact with PNI researchers in Brazil, we have developed and submitted a proposal to hold a symposium for the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Experimental Biology Societies of Brazil (FeSBE), planned for August 2023. The proposal has been recently approved by FeSBE (Fig. 4), and the symposium will be financed by a grant from Prof. Dr. Licio Velloso, a well-known expert on obesity and neuroimmunology, from the Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP). For the proposed symposium, titled *Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) expands to Ibero-America*, we have invited top-notch scholars who have gladly agreed to lecture at the FeSBE meeting. These scholars and their respective lecture titles are:

Key lecture:

- Jonathan Kipnis, an internationally recognized scientific leader famous for his 2014 discovery of meningeal lymphatic vessels.
  - Title: How brain borders control brain function
  - E-mail: [kipnis@wustl.edu](mailto:kipnis@wustl.edu)
  - Institution: Washington University in St. Louis, USA

*Round table*

First lecture:

- Keith W. Kelley (coordinator), one of the pioneer scholars on the discoveries of interactions between the nervous system and the immune system and a global leader in creating research collaborations, including **PNIRS<sub>Asia-Pacific</sub>** and **PNIRS<sub>Ibero-America</sub>**.
  - Title: Psychoneuroimmunology expands to Ibero-America
  - E-mail: [kwkelley@illinois.edu](mailto:kwkelley@illinois.edu)
  - Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Second lecture:

- Wilson Savino, who has immensely contributed to the field of immunomodulation with an emphasis on neuroimmune interactions. Professor Savino is a current member of the Sociedade de Imunologia and of the **PNIRS** **Ibero-America** team.
  - Title: Immunoneuroendocrine interactions in Chagas Disease
  - E-mail: [wilson.savino@fiocruz.br](mailto:wilson.savino@fiocruz.br)
  - Institution: Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – Fiocruz, Brazil

Third lecture:

- Ruth Barrientos, an expert in the area of behavioral neuroimmunology with substantial contributions about the aging brain and Alzheimer's disease.
  - Title: Mechanisms of Western diet-induced memory deficits in the aging brain
  - E-mail: [ruth.Barrientos@osumc.edu](mailto:ruth.Barrientos@osumc.edu)
  - Institution: The Ohio State University, USA



São Paulo, 04 de maio de 2023.

Prezado(a) Dr.(a) **Wilson Savino**,  
e-mail: wilson.savino@fiocruz.br

Vimos comunicar nesta oportunidade que a(o) **Simpósio** intitulada(o) **Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) expands to Ibero-America** proposta(o) por vossa senhoria foi aprovado(a) para compor a **XXXVII Reunião Anual da FeSBE**, que ocorrerá de 27 a 30 de agosto de 2023, no Hotel Atlântico Búzios Convention, Armação de Búzios, RJ.

Dada à qualidade e importância de sua proposta, gostaríamos de lembrar alguns pontos essenciais e necessários para garantir o sucesso e a realização de sua atividade em nossa Reunião Anual.

- 1- O Coordenador do evento é responsável por garantir que seu(s) convidado(s) tenha(m) realizado sua **inscrição no congresso**, o que inclui o preenchimento do formulário eletrônico de inscrição, o pagamento da respectiva taxa de inscrição e a inclusão de um resumo relativo à sua palestra até o dia **30/05/2023**. O resumo da palestra deve ser submetido via sistema na sua área de Palestrante.
- 2- O Coordenador, de acordo com o compromisso assumido previamente no momento de submissão da presente proposta, estará disponível para atuar como avaliador dos resumos submetidos, bem como dos painéis apresentados durante o Congresso.
- 3- **Favor, confirmar a sua participação e de seus palestrantes até o dia 10/05/2023, caso não seja confirmada a sua atividade será retirada do programa.**

**OBS.: Informamos que não podemos, neste momento, garantir que haverá auxílio passagem ou reembolso de transporte. Inicialmente conseguimos subsidiar parcialmente o auxílio hospedagem aos palestrantes brasileiros. Para os interessados, preencha o formulário no link <https://forms.gle/cgXMV9chUwPpLTaD8>, o congresso fará a reserva no Hotel Atlântico Búzios Convention no valor de R\$400 reais o quarto duplo (02 palestrantes). Estamos trabalhando, junto com as Sociedades, a possibilidade de fornecer um auxílio maior. Por favor, aguarde comunicado de nossa secretaria.**

Colocamo-nos à sua total disposição para quaisquer dúvidas e esclarecimentos que se façam necessários.

Atenciosamente,

Secretaria da FeSBE

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BRAVO - Brazilian Research Association in Vision  
SBCC - Sociedade Brasileira de Biologia Celular  
SBBF - Sociedade Brasileira de Biofísica  
SBBN - Sociedade Brasileira de Bioquímica Nuclear  
SBBQ - Sociedade Brasileira de Bioquímica e Biologia Molecular  
SBFis - Sociedade Brasileira de Física  
SBFTE - Sociedade Brasileira de Farmacologia e Terapêutica Experimental  
SBI - Sociedade Brasileira de Imunologia  
SBIC - Sociedade Brasileira de Investigação Clínica  
SBNAC - Sociedade Brasileira de Neurociências e Comportamento  
Mutagen-BRASIL - Associação Brasileira de Mutagenese e Genética Ambiental

SBA - Sociedade Brasileira de Anatomia  
SBB - Sociedade Brasileira de Biomecânica  
SBCAL - Sociedade Brasileira de Ciência em Animais de L.  
SBBM - Sociedade Brasileira de Embriologia e Metabol  
SBBM - Sociedade Brasileira de Microscopia e Microanal  
SBP - Sociedade Brasileira de Parasitologia  
SBPz - Sociedade Brasileira de Protozoologia  
SBT - Sociedade Brasileira de Toxicologia  
SBV - Sociedade Brasileira de Virologia  
SBZ - Sociedade Brasileira de Zoologia  
SBZa - Sociedade Brasileira de Toxicologia

Fig. 4. Approval of the symposium proposal “Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) expands o Ibero-America” by the Federation of Experimental Biology Societies of Brazil (FeSBE) – document in Portuguese.