

## ***Celebrating half a century of collaboration in hemostasis and thrombosis: the first 50 years of the Latin American Cooperative Group on Hemostasis and Thrombosis (CLAHT Group)***

### **Celebrando medio siglo de colaboración en hemostasia y trombosis: los primeros 50 años del Grupo Cooperativo Latinoamericano de Hemostasia y Trombosis (Grupo CLAHT)**

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Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Latin American Cooperative Group on Hemostasis and Thrombosis (CLAHT), we write to you on the occasion of a momentous milestone: the first 50 years of our organization.

Our roots trace back to the First Latin American Conference on Cooperative Work in Hematology, held in Havana, Cuba, from February 18 to 21, 1973. This event, sponsored by the Pan American Health Organization, the Inter-American Division of the International Society of Hematology, and the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba, laid the foundation for unprecedented collaboration in the region. The initial objective was to connect working groups in hemostasis and thrombosis throughout Latin America, with the mission of elevating the level of knowledge and fostering cooperative research.

CLAHT forged its foundations in Mexico City in 1975 during a key organizational assembly guided by the leadership of Dr. Javier Pizzutto, its first coordinator. This initiative was formally consolidated the following year with

its official establishment at the Caracas meeting in 1976. Among its distinguished founding members are Drs. Raúl Altman, Adela Martínez-Canaver, Eduardo Sack, Miguel Pavlovsky, Celso de Campos Guerra, Jorge Maldonado, Delfina Almagro, Samuel Dorantes Mesa, Javier Pizzutto Chávez, Carmen Luisa Arocha-Piñango, Carlos Goldstein, Francisco Ruiz, José Luis Pérez Requejo, and Tulio Arends. Since that milestone, CLAHT has expanded its influence, currently bringing together experts from 16 countries with approximately 400 members, and has established essential working committees that address critical areas such as hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, thrombophilia, and antithrombotic therapy, demonstrating its vital role in advancing the field of hemostasis and thrombosis in the region.

During these 50 years, CLAHT has served as a fundamental pillar for research, education, and clinical practice. The fellowship and solidarity we have cultivated have enabled the creation of data registries, the implementation of clinical guidelines adapted to our reality, and the support for specialist training through

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fellowships at the various CLAHT reference centers. Our strength lies in our ability to connect professionals from diverse contexts through biennial congresses that promote knowledge and innovation, and more recently through online web seminars and traveling symposia sponsored by CLAHT in different member countries. These activities have further enriched our network, ensuring continuous and accessible education for all.

As we look to the future, our commitment to global cooperation is stronger than ever. This anniversary is a moment to reflect on our journey and reaffirm our dedication to working alongside scientific societies around the world. Only through such collaboration can we address the challenges that still persist, such as equity in access to healthcare and research on the most complex pathologies.

We thank the *Revista Iberoamericana de Hemostasia y Trombosis* for being a key platform for disseminating scientific knowledge in our field, and we hope to continue sharing with you the fruits of our work.

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## Conflicts of interest

None.

## Ethical considerations

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**Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence.** The authors declare that no generative artificial intelligence was used in the writing of this manuscript.