

Montevideo, December 28, 2018

Dear members and friends of ALAEQ,

It has been a pleasure to share this year with you. This was a year of changes to our Association. **Elections** have been held; the **5<sup>th</sup> ALAEQ Meeting** was held in Valparaíso, Chile; our **web page** has been updated; and we are now in the final steps to set up an **on-line payment** system for our members.

1) As a result of the election, our **authorities** are now:

**Executive board**

- Carmen Rossini (Uruguay) – President
- Marcelo Lorenzo (Brazil) – Vice President
- Romina Barrozo (Argentina) – Secretary
- Andrés González (Uruguay) – Treasurer
- Paulo Henrique G. Zarkin (Brazil) – Past President

**Councilors**

- Jorge Zavala (Argentina) – 2016-2020
- Martin Pareja (Brazil) – 2016-2020
- Sol Balbuena (Argentina) – 2016-2020
- Diogo Montes Vidal (Brazil) – 2016-2020
- Maria Fernanda Flores (Chile) – 2016-2020
- Raul Laumann (Brazil) – 2018-2022
- Paula Altesor (Uruguay) – 2018-2022
- María Fernanda Peñaflor (Brazil) – 2018-2022
- José Manuel Latorre (Argentina) – 2018-2022
- Marcia González-Teuber (Chile) – 2018-2022

- 2) The **5<sup>th</sup> ALAEQ Meeting** held in **Valparaíso** was a successful meeting not only by the attendance, but also in terms of scientific content, fostering collaborations and hospitality by the local hosts. I would like to thank effusively all members of the organizing committee (Jan Bergmann, Eduardo Fuentes-Contreras, Marcia González-Teuber, Cristian Villagra) and all the collaborating students and the people acting in the technical support.
- 3) Our **web site** (<http://www.alaeq.org/>) is changing (thanks to the dedication of Andrés González). It features now an Area for members (<http://www.alaeq.org/members-area/>), which will soon be useful for different procedures.
- 4) The **on-line payment** system will be ready in 2019. It will be systematized via Paypal with an account set by FUNDACIBA (Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ciencias Básicas, from Uruguay: <https://www.fundaciba.uy/>), which is the Foundation that administers our funds.

Another important highlight of 2018 was the decision of adopting the **EBEQ meetings as official events of ALAEQ**. Next EBEQ will be held in 2019 in Alagoas, and more news will come soon about this important meeting.

Our **goals for 2019** include, among others, the following activities:

- To send all members our updated financial report.
- To keep working in strengthening relationships with ISCE and APACE.
- To adapt our by-laws to be able to formally register our Association.
- To register our Association as a non-profit institution to be an independent legal entity.
- To finish the implementation of the on-line payment system.
- To increase the number of members.
- To have a quarterly newsletter.
- To energize the use of our website and facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ALAEQ.org/>)

To increase membership, we will be working on some member benefits, including the opportunity to have a discount in the registration fees for the next EBEQ, the Curitiba winter school, and the VI ALAEQ meeting, as well as the possibility that the ISCE offers Travel Grants for ALAEQ students.

I would like to call your attention to the fact that the website, as well as our facebook page, are available for exchanging and disseminating information among members, as well as to the general public. We invite you to send materials about publications, courses, events, etc. to publicize. Please, send the information to:

- Web page: José Manuel Latorres ([josmantorres@gmail.com](mailto:josmantorres@gmail.com)) and Andrés González [agonzal29@gmail.com](mailto:agonzal29@gmail.com)
- Facebook page: Andrés González ([agonzal29@gmail.com](mailto:agonzal29@gmail.com)), María Sol Balbuena ([msbalbuena@gmail.com](mailto:msbalbuena@gmail.com)), Diogo Montes Vidal ([diogomvidal@gmail.com](mailto:diogomvidal@gmail.com)), Fernanda Flores ([fernanda.flores.e@gmail.com](mailto:fernanda.flores.e@gmail.com))

Finally, be aware that the **2020 ALAEQ meeting** will be held in **Buenos Aires**, Argentina, thanks to Romina Barrozo who generously accepted this challenge.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to send you our best wishes.

Let's work together to have a 2019 with more collaborations among Latin American Chemical Ecologists!



Carmen Rossini, Ph.D.  
President of the ALAEQ