

## **ALAFNA -ASSOCIATION OF LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND APPLICATIONS**

A.LÉPINE-SZILY

Institute of Physics, University of São Paulo

São Paulo, Brazil

alinka@if.usp.br

In this presentation, we will discuss the nuclear science activities in Latin America, our organization ALAFNA, and its flagship conference series “Latin American Symposium on Nuclear Physics and Applications”.

The “Association of Latin American Nuclear Physics and Applications” (ALAFNA) was formed in Santiago, Chile on December 19, 2009, during the VIII Latin American Symposium on Nuclear Physics and Applications (LASNPA), by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. At the foundation meeting, Andrés Kreiner (Argentina) and Alinka Lépine-Szily (Brazil) were elected co-chairs of ALAFNA.

The objectives of ALAFNA are:

- To strengthen ties among the Latin American Communities doing nuclear research and applications to foster collaborations and promotion of activities,
- To contribute to educate the scientific community and the general public through the promotion of Nuclear Physics and the peaceful uses of Nuclear Technology,
- To do periodic overall assessments of nuclear science in Latin America in the context of worldwide activities, and
- To represent the Latin American Nuclear Physics and Applications communities in other expert communities such as NuPECC, ANPhA, and other similar scientific international bodies.

The Steering Committee (SC) of ALAFNA was formed by the 15 original founders and later increased by the organizers of the subsequent LASNPA and some scientists indicated by member countries. The governance rules of ALAFNA were elaborated by members of the SC and voted by them; its implementation was delayed due to the pandemic of Covid 19.

One of the key activities of ALAFNA is the biennial organization of a series of international conferences titled “Latin American Symposium on Nuclear Physics and Applications” (LASNPA). ALAFNA and LASNPA has the sponsorship of IUPAP, of ICTP-Trieste, and of Centro Latino Americano de Física (CLAF).

The formal collaboration between countries and members of the Latin American nuclear physics community started in 1995 through the organization of the first Latin American Workshop on Nuclear and Heavy Ion Physics by László Sajó-Bohus in Caracas, Venezuela.

It was followed by additional workshops every two years, changing the organizer country at every edition, and since the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, using the name of Latin American Symposium on Nuclear Physics and Applications (LASNPA). The number of participants increased continuously and the ambitious scope attracted many participants from abroad. The next LASNPA will be in Mexico City at the end of 2022. In 2013, 2015 and 2017 the LASNPA conferences were preceded by medical physics schools for students.

A very successful and profitable Consultancy meeting was realized virtually in November 2020 to assess the areas of cooperation between IAEA and ALAFNA.