

LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

For already two decades a regional association of professionals that promotes excellence in reproductive medicine has been active, the Latin American Network of Assisted Reproduction (REDLARA, from the Spanish *Red Latinoamericana de Reproducción Asistida*; www.redlara.com). It consists of a scientific institution, independent and non-profit in character, that gathers over 90% of the centers that perform assisted reproduction techniques (ART) in Latin America. It was established in 1995 with the participation of 50 centers and currently includes 77 centers and 500 individual members.

REDLARA produces annually the Latin American Register of Assisted Reproduction (RLA), which gathers all the ART results reported by the affiliated centers. In this manner, it is able to recognize the needs of the region and design plans, recommendations, norms and policies in order to implement improvements in its educational programs and in the diagnosis and treatment of infertility. The RLA is the first assisted reproduction register in the world, as well as the most up-to-date, being part of the International Committee Monitoring Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ICMART).

The Network cooperates with the World Health Organization translating into Spanish the 'Glossary of Assisted Reproduction Technique Terminology', which allows to use a common nomenclature in order to standardize and compare procedures among different countries and regions. The goal of this initiative is to develop a glossary with internationally accepted definitions and continually update such definitions in order to achieve uniform and harmonized data collection, and to help in the control of the availability, efficacy and safety of the ARTs that are in practice in the whole world.

Additionally, REDLARA holds Center Accreditation and Specialist Certification programs. The norms and quality standards of REDLARA are published in its web page. Also, it offers the Continuing Education Program (PEC), which is

made up of at least five workshops per year, distributed in different countries of Latin America, the PEC-online, and a Master in Human Reproduction, organized jointly with the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain.

A General Congress is celebrated every two years, gathering fertility specialists from all the countries. The last congress took place, in March 2015, in Lima, Peru, with the participation of 700 specialists in a joint event with the Peruvian Society for Fertility and the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS). Attendants had the opportunity to update their information regarding the latest advances in reproductives (post-implantation sequencing, fetal aneuploidy prenatal evaluation, fast capture, evaluation of over 250 mutations in carriers, etc.), the possibilities of ovarian stimulation for low responders, individualized ovarian stimulation, ethical-legal aspects of assisted reproduction, and the option for fertility preservation. All the papers presented at this event are published in the scientific journal of REDLARA (*JBRA Assisted Reproduction*; www.sbra.com.br).

REDLARA contributes to accomplish universal access to sexual and reproductive health, training 400 PEC-online students, 27 students Master students jointly with the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and many more in workshops held through the alliance with IFFS, increasing the number of accredited centers and certified professionals. Also, among many other activities, it publishes guidelines for assisted reproduction clinical and laboratory procedures, and has actively participated in public consultancies and debates on bioethics, in Uruguay, Peru and Venezuela, as well as in trials at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Costa Rica, defending the rights of the patients. The sum of all these activities confers REDLARA the status of a truly international school of reproductive biology and medicine.

MARÍA TERESA URBINA
President, REDLARA