

THE INTERCIENCIA ASSOCIATION AND ITS JOURNAL: SCIENCE AND INTEGRATION IN A TRANSFORMING WORLD

The Interciencia Association (IA) is a non-profit scientific federation that brings together associations devoted to the advancement of science throughout the Americas. It was founded on July 10, 1974, in Recife (Brazil), by scientific representatives of seventeen national associations from countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Since its founding, the IA and its journal have played a fundamental role in disseminating scientific knowledge produced in the region, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, and promoting regional integration, thereby consolidating their position as high-impact academic references with international recognition.

From its origins, the IA was conceived as a regional space for scientific convergence aimed at strengthening cooperation among diverse academic communities and promoting a science committed to the development of the societies of the Americas. This collective project responded to the need for a dedicated platform to give visibility to regional scientific production, encourage knowledge exchange, and contribute to the development of scientific agendas relevant to the continent's social, economic, and environmental contexts.

Over more than five decades, the IA and its journal have continuously contributed to the circulation of scientific knowledge produced in North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and other regions, fostering interdisciplinary exchange and integration into international academic networks. *Interciencia* has established itself as a plural and rigorous journal that links scientific research with the main challenges of regional development.

This role has enabled the journal not only to function as a medium of academic communication, but also as a space for critical reflection on the role of science in society. Through editorials, research articles, and thematic issues, *Interciencia* has accompanied debates on science policy, innovation, education, the environment, and equity, reinforcing the importance of a contextualized, interdisciplinary, and socially responsible science.

At present, the emergence of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum computing, and digital technologies is profoundly transforming the dynamics of production, governance, education, and social coexistence, generating new opportunities while also widening gaps that redefine economic, social, and geopolitical development.

These processes of accelerated technological transformation raise ethical, social, and political questions that challenge scientific communities and academic institutions. Particularly for Latin American and Caribbean countries, these transformations occur in a context marked by structural inequalities, limitations in scientific infrastructure, and tensions among development models, making responses based on scientific evidence, regional cooperation, and interdisciplinary approaches essential.

Within this context, the IA and its journal are promoting a process of institutional renewal and strengthening that expands their reach to new global scientific communities. Their objective is to promote open, inclusive, and socially relevant science as a driver of development; foster scientific exchange and cooperation among researchers and institutions; improve science communication and dissemination for society; develop scientific capacities and education at all levels; and promote a science capable of influencing evidence-based public policies.

This renewal is grounded in the conviction that science is a public good and an essential component of collective well-being, environmental sustainability, and the strengthening of democracies. Accordingly, the IA actively promotes collaboration among researchers, institutions, and scientific networks, recognizing that challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, energy transitions, and productive transformations require consensus-based solutions and situated scientific knowledge.

The importance of strengthening science education and capacity development at all levels—from early education to advanced research—is also recognized, with particular attention to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Science communication and dialogue with society are considered central components for achieving an informed citizenry and for enabling collective decision-making based on evidence.

In a global context characterized by uncertainty and accelerated change, the IA reaffirms its commitment to rigorous, ethical, and socially engaged science, capable of contributing effectively to the construction of more just, sustainable, and democratic futures for the societies of the Americas.

We remain committed.

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