



## Foreword to the special issue *Crystallography in Latin America: a vibrant community*

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Over the last few months, *Acta Crystallographica Section C: Structural Chemistry* has published a number of papers by Latin American authors. These form a collection dedicated to Latin American research entitled ‘*Crystallography in Latin America: a vibrant community*’.

The collection highlights the diversity and quality of research conducted by Latin American scientists. The Latin American Crystallographic Association (LACA), a Regional Associate of the IUCr, plays a pivotal role in promoting crystallography through meetings and schools aimed at engaging both young and senior researchers. LACA represents several crystallographic communities across countries including Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Cuba.

The investigations featured in this collection are highly diverse, encompassing not only structural descriptions (Fajardo *et al.*, 2024; Atencio *et al.*, 2024; Dival *et al.*, 2024; Anaya-Avila *et al.*, 2024), but also computational simulations in the solid state (Nascimento *et al.*, 2024; Calisto *et al.*, 2024), studies of magnetic properties and behaviour (Araujo Junior *et al.*, 2024; Bermúdez *et al.*, 2024), Hirshfeld surface analyses (Sánchez-Pacheco *et al.*, 2024; Pinto *et al.*, 2024; Guzmán-Hernández & Jancik, 2024), bioactive molecules (Monge-Hoyos *et al.*, 2024; Guimaraes *et al.*, 2024), conformational studies (Movilla *et al.*, 2025; García-González *et al.*, 2024) and mechanochemistry (González-González *et al.*, 2024). These contributions demonstrate the broad and impactful research being undertaken by Latin American crystallographers across a range of significant scientific areas.

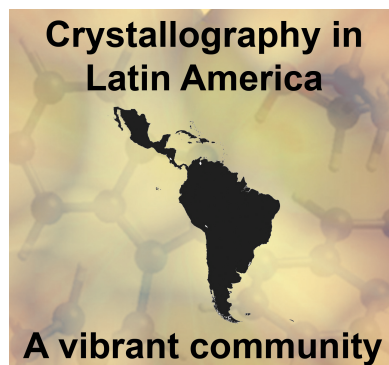
An article of general interest provides a fascinating historical account of crystallography in Argentina (Piro, 2025), particularly at the University of La Plata, showcasing its longstanding collaboration with the University of São Carlos in Brazil.

This collection also emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of crystallography, highlighting its connections with other research fields and presenting innovative and thought-provoking studies. Contributions come from researchers in Brazil, México, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the authors who made this collection possible. May this be a continued celebration of vibrant and impactful research in Latin America. We are also grateful to *Acta Crystallographica Section C* for having given the space and the effort in the publication of this collection and hope that future collaboration between the journal and researchers from Latin America will continue to be fruitful.

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