

**Palabras de bienvenida**  
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When Pandora opened the legendary box, she released a host of demons and one fluttering hope.

In some ways the advances in biology, genetics, microenvironment and new drugs development are a modern version of this myth. Today we are able to identify different presentations of CLL, to analyze the valuable prognostic factors and treat this disease more rationally.

The Latin American Group on CLL was created in 2012 after several failed attempts of regional integration. With the leadership of Dr Guillermo Dighiero and supported by Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, the first IBAM was held in 2013. This foundational event strengthened the Group and facilitated the meeting of clinicians and basic researchers who decided to work together on the fascinating subject of CLL. The basic research group, consisted mainly of researchers from the Institute Pasteur in Montevideo, the IMex at the National Academy of Medicine in Buenos Aires and Brazilian scientists from Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, formed a solid base of work and cooperation with several international meetings focused on standardization methods of FISH, molecular biology and flow cytometry. The Latin American Group on CLL is currently expanding to incorporate researchers from Chile, Paraguay and Peru.

However, true success in clinical research requires not only patient data and samples, but also the development of original clinical trial protocols to provide a substantial growth impulse to the Group and to reach to publications of high impact. Despite the efforts made, different regulatory processes in our countries have hampered this goal for the moment.

After the first IBAM in 2013, the second meeting took place in 2016 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This issue of Hematología reports on the third meeting of the IBAM-CLL held in Buenos Aires, during August 30-31, 2018. A full participation will encourage appropriate, jointly developed clinical trials providing for the best possible treatment plan for individual patient and leading important insight and opportunities for clinical research.

I wish to thank all of those who made this meeting possible. In particular, the members of the scientific committee who did a wonderful work in the organization of the scientific program. I am also very grateful to C&C for the outstanding organization of the meeting. Finally, I am indebted to the sponsors, without whom the meeting would not have been possible.