

Dear readers:

The challenges left by the year 2020 make us think about the importance of research to literally keep humanity alive. The COVID-19 pandemics has disrupted all ambits of our existences; even those emporiums that believed to be indestructible have been affected and many of them have required to modify their usual activities to be able to survive. Those who did not do it succumbed to the crisis and closed their doors, generating unemployment and increasing the gap between those who have lost and those who should devise ways to survive.

Keeping active the research has not been an easy task, the restrictions generated regarding access to labs, free transit of people, importation of supplies, the risk involved by continuing processes especially those that require experimentation with groups and many other things are currently barriers that need to be overcome. Taking a quick look to the gigantic world of publications, it is evident that they have not stopped, they keep generating their periodical contents with the established quality indices. In Ecuador, for those who are in the exciting task of scientific dissemination this is palpable, and if we consider the number of papers received in *INGENIUS* for this number, we may understand that researchers devised processes to successfully overcome the barriers generated by the pandemics.

I consider of utmost importance to remark the innovation capability and ingenuity of researchers, and this is why the pandemics, even though it has caused many problems and human losses, for sure it has also generated great challenges. The first and the one that motivated the teamwork of thousands of researchers worldwide has been the development of a vaccine (in a record time). However, we should not

forget that a continuous research will be required to provide support to the different changes undergone by the virus which will modify its interaction with human beings. It should be also considered that the well-being of people has been affected and it will be necessary a joint action to recover and improve our lifestyles. For this, it is essential: to generate proposals and developments to recover the sources of employment and improve the economy of all families, contributing to innovative ideas that enable optimizing productivity, improving communication systems, strengthening social security systems, developing cutting-edge technology, but with accessible costs that enable all people to take part of the benefits obtained. And, above all, contributing so that the less advantaged have the opportunity to integrate to a dignified life and may develop to be an active part of the society.

The teamwork must be strengthened and privileged, and thus we are very pleased to see that many of the contributions that come to *INGENIUS* are made by multidisciplinary groups and from different countries, which has given rise to papers of great value which for sure will contribute to the national and international scientific community in the search for products, systems, equipment, processes that enable an accelerated development to achieve the tranquility and calm that this pandemics took away.

Finally, I invite you to revise the papers chosen for this edition: very valuable works from different parts of the world which, thanks to the virtual and communication systems, show that it is possible to achieve the synergy necessary to obtain successful results.

And do not forget that if research does not continue and strengthen the world, it will be exposed to an imminent extinction.

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