

Revista Latinoamericana de Microbiología

Volumen
Volume 47

Número
Number 1-2

Enero-Junio
January-June 2005

Artículo:

Message from the Editor in chief

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Asociación Mexicana de Microbiología, AC

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Message from the Editor in chief

David Romero*

Almost three years ago, I agreed to become the new Editor in Chief of the *Revista Latinoamericana de Microbiología*. Foremost in my mind was to impulse the *Revista* as one of the main forums for publication of microbiological research in Latin America. To do so, it was essential not only to receive high quality work, but also to institute rigorous standards for peer-reviewing of each manuscript. To achieve that, I was aided by a top-notch Editorial Board, as well as by a selected cadre of high-quality reviewers. Along these years, my main objective was never to compromise in the need to increase the scientific quality of the work published by the *Revista*. The results of this joint effort are in view to all our readers. At the beginning of 2005, the Mexican Council for Science and Technology recognized this effort by including the *Revista* in the Index of Journals of Excellence in Applied Biological Sciences.

After achieving this much needed first step, my time has come to move to new endeavors. Starting with the next issue, Dra. Esperanza Martínez-Romero, from the Center of Genomic Sciences at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, will assume the role of new Editor in Chief. Esperanza is a well-known microbiologist working in the areas of bacterial diversity, phylogeny and evolution. Her

scientific rigor, enthusiasm and almost encyclopaedic knowledge in microbiology are well-recognized among the international community. Among her impressive scientific credentials, she is currently the President of the Mexican Association of Microbiology as well as member of the Editorial Board of the ASM journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. I am sure that the *Revista* will benefit from the high scientific qualities that are the hallmark of Dr. Martínez-Romero.

During my tenure as Editor, I had the great fortune to count with the help of excellent collaborators. First, I would like to thank Dr. Edmundo Calva, former President of the Mexican Association of Microbiology, who broke with elegant persuasion my initial reluctance to accept the role of Editor. I am deeply grateful to Edmundo for the support, warmth and respectful scientific advice that he offered. I am also grateful-and indeed indebted-to our Editorial Assistant, Mrs. Amapola Soberón. The success of the *Revista* owes much to the efficiency, tireless efforts, piquant sense of humor and sensible management of all the submissions displayed by Mrs. Soberón. Finally, I thank all the authors and expert reviewers; it is in their compromise with scientific quality that the success of the *Revista* really lays.



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