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Short agenda for GARN 2019-2023

Since its inception in 2011, the IAGG-GARN has made a step forward in the research on aging and, more precisely, on the biological, clinical and epidemiological components of the challenges associated to the ageing of the societies.

The Network is now well established having made substantial contributions through its different activities: nine working groups (some of them in collaboration with international organizations like WHO) that have released relevant consensus papers and other documents, a website (with an annual 14 500 visits in 2016) and News Releases, distribution of seminal reports (like the WHO 2015 World report on Ageing and Health). Other communication tools were published, like the White Book on Frailty, translated to 5 languages), or designed, like videos expanding the knowledge on main topics such as Frailty translated in 11 different languages or on "Memory Disorders" translated in 9 languages.

At the end on December, 2016, IAGG-GARN was composed by 584 centers, the majority of them based in Europe (297) but with a strong participation of groups established in Asia/Oceania region (140) and in North America (88).

With this outstanding background in mind, the next period will be dedicated, to three main tasks: 1) a refinement in its organizational profile, 2) their relationship with the managerial structure of the IAGG, including the Scientific Committee, and finally, but also very important, 3) to raise joint research efforts with the purpose of building documents with the priorities of research in aging.

1) Make the organization and management of the Network more participative by providing a cross-continental perspective. In this regard, in addition to the new Director (Prof. Leocadio Rodriguez Mañas, Spain), Prof Luis Miguel Gutiérrez-Robledo, from the Mexican National Institute of Geriatrics, and with Prof Cha, will collaborate with me in leading the IAGG-GARN as Deputy Directors. This approach will allow to incorporate in the Directorate of the Network a representative of the two continents reporting the highest membership in the current composition of the Network (Europe and Asia/Oceania), but at the same time will give the opportunity of providing views and perspectives to Latin-America, one of the most promising zones in the research on aging.

In this same regard, the administrative work will be run by SEMEG, that will provide its own infrastructure to coordinate the organizational, administrative and bureaucratic issues of the Network.

2) The growth of the Network makes it advisable to develop a bi-annual Plan, with updates of the same if necessary. Together with this Strategic Plan, the management and management bodies of the IAGG-GARN should communicate, in due time, to the competent bodies of the IAGG (Scientific Committee or Executive Committee) any activity to be carried out that was not foreseen or contemplated in the Strategic Plan or any of its updates.

- 3) We invite you to visit the new website focused in the promotion of transnational and transcontinental research geriatric/gerontological programs. To update your profile, please register in: <http://garn-iagg.org/register/>

Once your application has been approved you can participate in an initiative of GARN-IAGG with the purpose of building a document setting the priorities of research on aging, that will be hopefully approved by the IAGG Executive Committee as an official Statement Position of the Organization. In this same regard we have a pre-commitment to publish the document in some of the journals of the affiliated organizations.

Thanking you for your collaboration in this exciting effort,

With my very best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L. Rodríguez Mañas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prof. Leocadio Rodríguez Mañas, MD, PhD
Director of GARN-IAGG