



ACADEMIA NACIONAL
DE CIENCIAS



ANCEFN

The National Academy of Sciences (ANC) and the National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences (ANCEFN), together, want to express their appreciation to the scientific community of our country and to the authorities of scientific organizations such as CONICET and the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation, which together with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, have given since the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, an early and rational response to the fight against the coronavirus. Their actions, weighted by the Ministry of Health, have been highly appreciated not only by the national and provincial governments but also from the entire society.

The Ministry has organized through the Agency all the necessary actions to promote the production of knowledge and technology in relation to Covid19. They have launched a call for research and development projects open to the most varied disciplines, financing in record time 60 projects, to which were later added other eight publicly-privately funded with the Bunge y Born Foundation. These projects have revolutionized the priorities of numerous CONICET researchers, whom have jointly and collectively offered themselves to try to solve the coronavirus pandemic through new epidemiological and immunological studies, mathematical analyses of the spread and evolution of the pandemic, and diagnostic developments through new kits, with social approaches to quarantine, engineering developments for the local production of ventilators, as well as new therapeutic approaches such as the application of plasma from patients recovered from coronavirus.

Among these actions, I would like to highlight one of ANCFEN 2019 awards on Technological Innovation, that of Dr. Carolina Carrillo and her team from the Milstein Institute, who received it for the development of a new molecular biological base kit to detect the virus of the dengue. At the call of the authorities, in less than 50 days, they developed a new molecular biological kit for the diagnosis of covid 19, which, with the support between the Cassará Foundation and Conicet, allowed the production of tens of thousands of tests that are already being applied. This new PCR-like resolution test does not require thermocyclers and with just a 65 °C bath, the diagnosis is processed safely and much faster and cheaper.

In addition to these new activities, the Academy has been working together with other academies in the G-Science Group on the S20 thematic axes: Future of Health, Circular Economy, Digital Revolution and Connecting the Dots, with a strong focus on the coronavirus pandemic for the next G20 to be held in Saudi Arabia.

Córdoba and Buenos Aires, June 6th., 2020.-

Dra. Beatriz Caputto
ANC President

Dr. Victor A. Ramos
ANCFEN President