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*Meeting Report*

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**Report from the 2nd annual RICiFa meeting (International Meeting on Pharmaceutical Sciences 2012)****Claudio J. Salomon<sup>1,3,4</sup> and Santiago D. Palma<sup>2,3</sup>***Received 13 December 2013; accepted 7 January 2014*

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The 2nd International Meeting on Pharmaceutical Sciences (RICiFa 2012) took place from November 21–23, 2012 in Rosario, Argentina. The meeting was hosted by the National University of Rosario in collaboration with the Iberoamerican-Swiss Centre for Development of Dosage Forms of the University of Seville (CISDEM).

The purpose of this conference was to bring together scientists, researchers, and students to discuss on recent advances in pharmaceutical sciences. The meeting included strong representations from all of the pharmaceutical science disciplines. In addition to podium and poster research presentations, eight invited plenary lectures were given by renowned researchers from Spain, Italy, Brazil, and Mexico.

The scientific program started with a plenary lecture, entitled “Rare diseases and orphan drugs,” given by Professor Antonio Rabasco Alvarez. He teaches pharmaceutical technology and biopharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Seville University, Spain. His primary research interests include the design and optimization of extended release tablet formulations and manufacturing processes.

Then, Professor Javier Arias, currently at the University of Valladolid, Spain, presented a lecture entitled “Tailor-made recombinant polymers for biomedical applications.” He has more than 60 scientific publications in different journals and more than 15 patents of invention. His research topics are recombinant biopolymer design and synthesis for biomaterials.

Professor Carla M. Caramella, professor of pharmaceutical technology and biopharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Pavia, Italy, presented a lecture entitled “Novel technologies for controlled drug delivery: balancing innovation with regulatory

compliance.” Professor Caramella’s current research interests are in the design and evaluation of delivery systems applied to several routes of administration.

A lecture entitled “Design and optimization of controlled drug delivery systems” was given by Professor Isidoro Caraballo. Currently, he is teaching pharmaceutical technology at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Seville University, Spain. He is a member of the Swiss Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the head of CISDEM.

Dr. Manuel Machuca González, from Seville, Spain, is a pharmacist and magister in pharmaceutical care. His lecture was “Pharmaceutical care: opportunities and responsibility.” He is one of the pioneers in the field of the traditional role of the pharmacist that involves in the preparation, dispensing, and selling of medications and its relationship with different “pharmaceutical care” models.

Professor María Palmira Daflon Gremião is professor of pharmaceutical technology at the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, São Paulo State University (Brazil). She presented a lecture entitled “Exploring the use of drug delivery systems for nasal, topical, and rectal routes.” Her research interests are in the design and evaluation of delivery systems such as liposomes, microemulsion, crystal liquid, solid lipid nanoparticles and polymeric nanoparticles, and mucoadhesive drug delivery systems.

A lecture entitled “Formulation of controlled release pellets for nutrition and reproduction of sheep” was given by Professor Luz María Melgoza Contreras from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco (Mexico). Dr. Melgoza supervises a multidisciplinary group of pharmaceutical scientists studying the percolation theory and novel controlled drug delivery system applied to human and veterinary.

Professor José Luis Pedraz is teaching at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Pais Vasco University (Spain). His scientific studies focus mainly on the microencapsulation of live cells, microparticles and nanoparticles as peptide and protein vaccine administration systems, solid lipid nanoparticles for gene therapy, and lipid nanoparticles as administration systems for not very soluble drugs. His lecture was entitled “Micro and nanotechnologies applied to cell and gene therapy.”

An additional nine invited podium presentations were given by distinguished foreigner and local scientists and educators including

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Laura Domínguez (Uruguay), Gabriela Delgado (Colombia), Marcilio Cunha Filho (Brazil), María Añón (Argentina), Daniel Allemandi (Argentina), Fabiana Alovero (Argentina), Alejandro Sosnik (Argentina), Oscar Bottasso (Argentina), and Ricardo Furlán (Argentina).

This meeting was a unique opportunity for all the attendants to extend their national and international professional network and align with recent developments in pharmaceutical sciences. This was accomplished by providing open forums for the exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge based on all fields of pharmaceutical sciences.

Over 480 international delegates from Argentina and neighboring countries from academia, community pharmacy, and industry attended RICiFa 2012 to discuss about novel achievements on all fields of pharmacy. More than 230 posters were presented at the meeting. The abstracts were selected and reviewed by the conference's scientific committee. Please visit the following URL for a complete compilation of presentation titles, authors, and abstracts: <http://www.ricifa.com.ar/rosario2012.html>.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the contributing authors for their permanent support, interest, and cooperation. Their participation provided open forums for the exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge and by promoting the pharmaceutical sciences as they relate to health issues of public concern.

During RICiFa 2012, a forum for the exchange of knowledge among pharmacists to enhance their contributions to public health was organized. It was an interesting opportunity to discuss how the pharmacists might work closely together with health teams in order to increase the relationship between pharmaceutical sciences and practice.

Finally, we are sincerely grateful to our co-workers for their invaluable contributions toward the remarkable success of RICiFa 2012. Moreover, the excellent work made by the peer reviewers is greatly acknowledged.

In addition, the success of RICiFa 2012 and CISDEM VI is also due to our sponsors: National University of Rosario, Argentina; Secretary of Science and Technology, Santa Fe, Argentina; Ministry of Science and Technology, Argentina; Colegio de Farmacéuticos de la provincial de Santa Fe, Argentina (2<sup>da</sup> C); Laboratorios Gador; Laboratorios Elea; Laboratorios Monserrat and Éclair; Laboratio de Hemoderivados UNC; Laboratorios Natufarma; Damico Sistemas; Evonik; Sistenza Amoblamientos; SKAN; Biopore; and R. Bueloni y Cia.

Finally, on behalf of the organizers, we would like to invite all of you to attend the 3rd International Meeting on Pharmaceutical Sciences (RICiFa 2014) in Córdoba, Argentina. For further details, see: <http://www.ricifa.com.ar>.

Chairs of the Conference

Prof. Dr. Santiago Palma, University of Cordoba (Argentina)

Prof. Dr. Claudio Salomon, University of Rosario (Argentina)