



## Newsletter No. 99

### Electroporation in Latin America

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The Laboratory of Translational Bioengineering of the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, Fundación HA Barceló Argentina, directed by Dr. Felipe Maglietti received the visit of the President-elect of the ISEBTT, Dr. Emanuela Signori. During that time, she participated in several meetings with the authorities of the Fundación Barceló. Activities were organized to extend the presence of the Society in Latin America. Among them, was an international Masterclass that reunited the past, the present, and the future presidents of the ISEBTT, Dr. Luis Mir, Dr. Javier Raso, and Dr. Signori.

The Masterclass supported by the Society counted the presence of more than 100 participants from Latin America, mainly professionals from health sciences and students. Three main topics were addressed; the basics of the technology, the uses in the food industry, and the uses in medicine. A great interest was aroused, and many consultations were received about how to begin using the technology in different areas.

The use of electrochemotherapy as a standard of care in Argentina is steadily extending among different institutions. Among them, the national reference center for skin cancer; the Hospital Ramos Mejía (Buenos Aires), is using the procedure with great success. The Onco-dermatology unit has 3 medical doctors in charge of prescribing and performing the treatment in selected cases. The Instituto Angel Roffo (Buenos Aires); the most important cancer center in the country, is using the technology in the gynecology department, and in the melanoma and sarcoma unit. The Hospital Petrona Cordero (San Fernando), is also using the technology in the plastic surgery department, obtaining excellent results, and exploring its combination with surgery. Another very prestigious hospital is in the process of implementing electrochemotherapy in the Oncology department, the Hospital de Clínicas, from the University of Buenos Aires.

The first course electrochemotherapy for medical doctors was dictated in the Fundación Barceló (<https://www.barcelo.edu.ar/carreras-curso-electroquimioterapia-oncologia>). During the inaugural class, Dr. Signori welcomed the participants and presented the Society. The program and content of the course were approved by the Society.

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It included the participation of the chief of the Dermatology department of the Hospital de Clínicas, the chief of Surgery of the Melanoma Unit of the Instituto Roffo, and the chief of the Plastic Surgery Unit of the Hospital Cordero.

A special class about electrochemotherapy has been included in the Onco-dermatology postgraduate course of the Fundación Barceló (<https://www.barcelo.edu.ar/carreras-diplomatura-dermatologia-oncologica>). This course has been imparted during the last 7 years with more than 80 participants in each edition. Many dermatologists, plastic surgeons, oncologists, and general practitioners from Latin America take this very prestigious course. Since the last edition, electrochemotherapy has been integrated into the course and is presented as another treatment modality that they can prescribe.

Regarding veterinary applications of electrochemotherapy, a new edition of the electrochemotherapy course is coming (<https://vetoncologia.com/cursos/curso-electroquimioterapia-veterinaria-online>). It has been imparted since 2018 with great success, forming more than 200 veterinarians in the indications and correct use of the technology, including participants from Spain, Italy, the UK, and the United Arab Emirates.

A lot of enthusiasm is present here in Argentina about the forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress. Five members of the aforementioned laboratory, among other medical doctors and veterinarians from Perú, Brazil, and Chile will be participating, giving lectures, presenting posters, and organizing special sessions. It will be a fantastic opportunity to share, learn, and of course, have a great dish of pasta with our colleagues and friends.



President-elect of the ISEBTT Dr Emanuela Signori meeting with authorities from Fundación Barceló.

In the picture from left to right: Alejo Fernandez Blanco (advisor of the international relations department), Lic Carolina O'Donnell (Secretary of Science and Technology), Dr Felipe Maglietti, Dr Emanuela Signori, Lic Juan Manuel Godoy (Director of the International Relations Department), and Cristina Lafabiana, MD (collaborator).

## Forthcoming events

### 18<sup>th</sup> interdisciplinary postgraduate course and international workshop Electroporation Based Technologies and Treatments (EBTT)

Ljubljana, November 11 – 16, 2024 (*on-site* and *on-line* event)

<https://2024.ebtt.org/>

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