



INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK OF ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES

*Science Academies working together to promote science and technology
for development, prosperity and equity in the Americas*

IANAS Online EC Meeting – November 10, 2020

This meeting was called mainly to discuss NASEM and The Academy of Sciences of Latin America (ACAL) grant from the Lounsbery Foundation to help sustain science in Latin America.

1. John Boright made a presentation on the recent developments about this grant. He mentioned that two of NAS's main concerns have always been to find a way to create a type of borderless program for young people in their early career, as well as to use ways to support IANAS financially. Claudio Bifano from ACAL has also been in contact with the Lounsbery Foundation.

They do seminars, webinars, and they have material. The idea is to have this material on a platform available to academies, scientists, opportunities, information.

The Lounsbery Foundation wants to find a way to support science in Latin America, especially in a situation where these countries have financing problems. And they want to make sure that a small group is formed to manage the project. It is one of the largest grants they have ever given, which speaks to the importance they attach to it.

The program has two points. First, the part of the platform with information.

Secondly, they want to put together an Advisory Committee of approximately 10 people. And probably have two young early career people to join them. It is a voluntary committee; it is not paid. This is a way of providing broad input and advice to ACAL. Also, they would have an advisory part of a series of 5 very well-prepared virtual events. This is a 3-year program and probably later we will be able to hold face-to-face meetings. But for now, they would be wide meetings that have the participation of early career scientists.

Essentially it is a process that is completely led by early career leaders. IANAS role would be modest: to think on early career scientists that would be good candidates for the advisory committee; and then to help figure out how to identify possible participants in these events (around 80 participants).

IANAS EC Members thanked John Boright for the report and agreed in moving forward with the proposal.