



PNIRS

PsychoNeuroImmunology
Research Society
Ibero-America

PNIRS Ibero-America
Annual Committee Report

June 1, 2025 to May 10, 2026



A Landmark year for our regional network

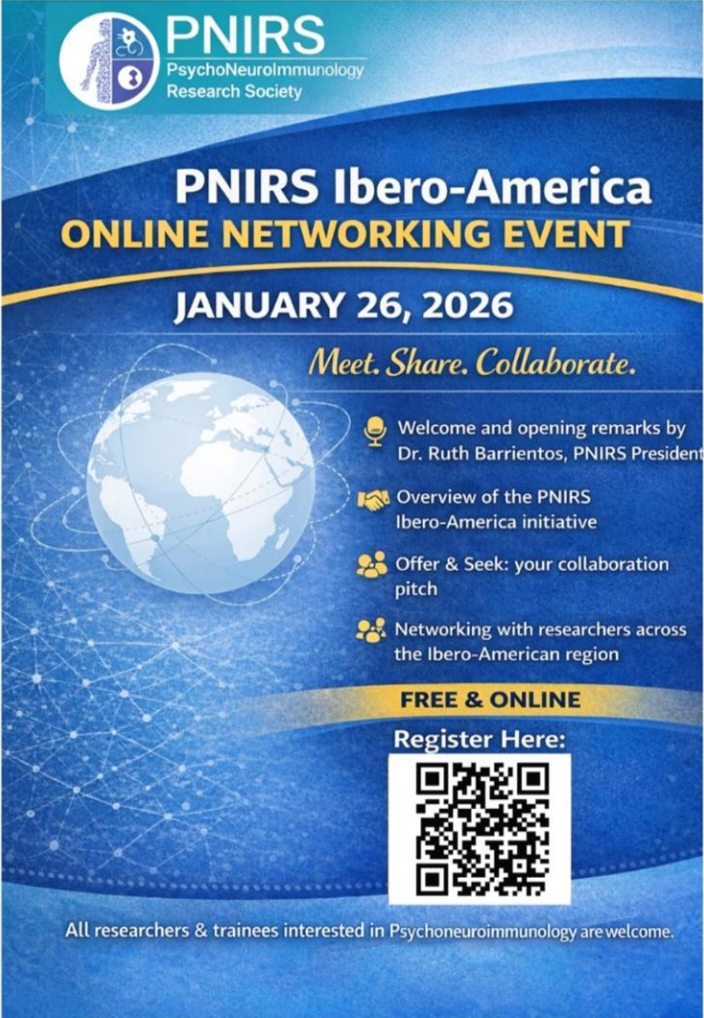
We are pleased to share the latest updates from PNIRS Ibero-America during a landmark year for our regional network. Over the past year, we expanded opportunities for collaboration and scientific exchange across Ibero-America reaching an important milestone: the successful organization of our first fully independent international symposium. Hosted in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, the 4th PNIRS Ibero-America Symposium brought together over 150 participants and established a dedicated space for psychoneuroimmunology in the region.

In parallel, we launched our first online networking event to strengthen communication and collaboration across institutions and career stages, and consolidated a Special Issue in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity – Integrative, highlighting the work emerging from our community. Together, these initiatives reflect the continued growth, visibility, and international integration of PNIRS Ibero-America.



First PNIRS Ibero-America online networking event

January 26, 2026



The poster features the PNIRS logo at the top left, which includes a stylized figure and the text 'PNIRS PsychoNeuroImmunology Research Society'. The main title is 'PNIRS Ibero-America ONLINE NETWORKING EVENT' in white and yellow text on a blue background. Below the title is the date 'JANUARY 26, 2026'. A central graphic shows a globe with network lines. To the right of the globe is a list of activities: 'Welcome and opening remarks by Dr. Ruth Barrientos, PNIRS President', 'Overview of the PNIRS Ibero-America initiative', 'Offer & Seek: your collaboration pitch', and 'Networking with researchers across the Ibero-American region'. Below this list is a yellow banner that says 'FREE & ONLINE'. Underneath the banner is a QR code and the text 'Register Here:'. At the bottom of the poster, it says 'All researchers & trainees interested in Psychoneuroimmunology are welcome.'

In January 2026, PNIRS Ibero-America organized its first online networking event, designed to strengthen communication and collaboration among researchers across the Ibero-American region. The free virtual event brought together investigators and trainees from different countries and career stages to discuss research interests, collaboration opportunities, and future initiatives.

A central component of the event was the interactive “Offer & Seek” session, in which participants shared collaboration opportunities, scientific expertise, available resources, and current research needs. This initiative created a highly collaborative environment and directly facilitated new international interactions across the network.

Fostering continuous collaboration

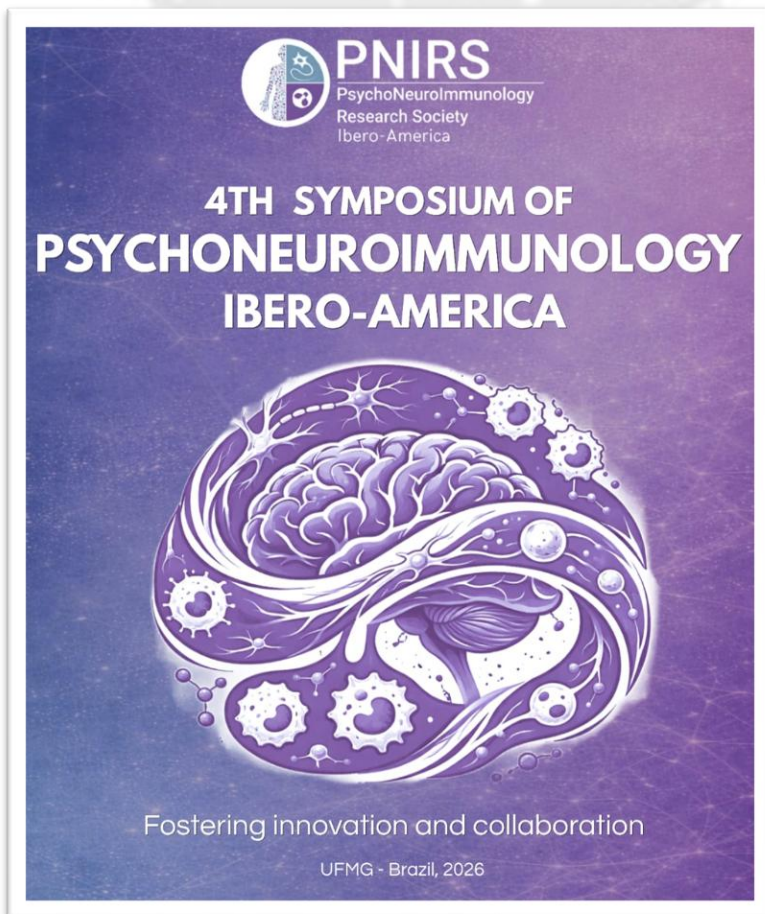
One example was the development of a collaborative grant proposal involving researchers from the United States, Brazil, and Argentina, including Dr. Antônio Lúcio Teixeira (University of Texas, USA), Dr. Aline Silva de Miranda (UFMG, Brazil), and Dr. Federico Daray (Universidad de Buenos Aires/CEMIC, Argentina), who joined PNIRS and attended the 2025 annual meeting through connections established within the PNIRS Ibero-America network. Dr. Antônio Lúcio Teixeira also expressed interest in becoming a member of the society. These interactions highlighted the role of PNIRS Ibero-America in fostering multinational collaborations while also expanding engagement with the broader PNIRS community.



One of the major goals of this initiative was to create a more continuous and accessible environment for communication beyond annual meetings. Following the event, we established a PNIRS Ibero-America WhatsApp group to facilitate ongoing interaction among members, including the sharing of opportunities, positions, resources, and collaborative interests across the network.

This online initiative represented an important step toward building a more connected and collaborative psychoneuroimmunology community across Ibero-America.

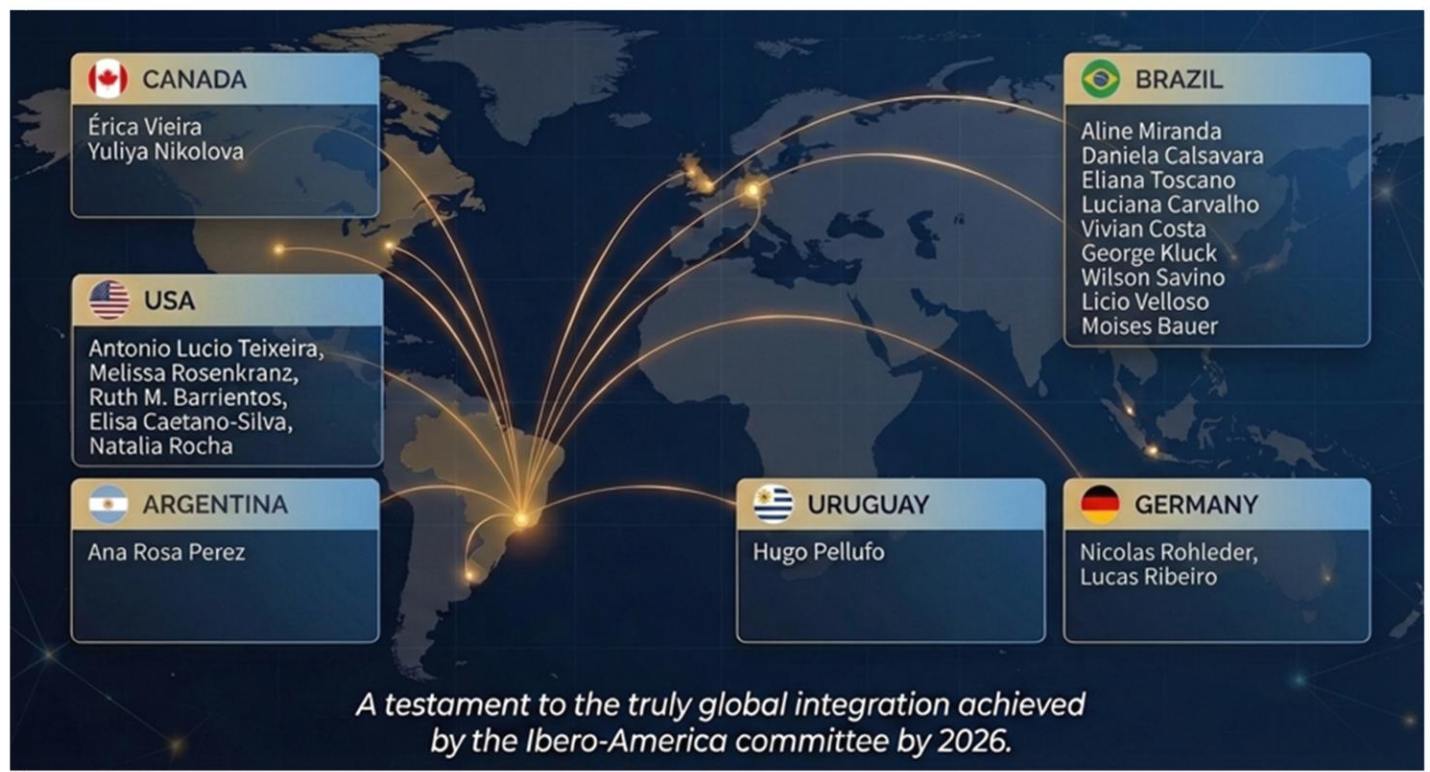
First PNIRS Ibero-America independent international meeting



The 4th International Symposium of Psychoneuroimmunology (PNIRS) Ibero-America marked a historic milestone for the network as our first fully independent international meeting. Hosted at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, (April 13-16, 2026), the symposium brought together over 150 participants and established a dedicated space for PNI in Ibero-America.

The meeting was supported by the Brazilian funding agency Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de Minas Gerais (FAPEMIG), whose support was instrumental in enabling the organization of this landmark event. The event featured 5 keynote lectures, 3 thematic scientific sessions, 2 roundtable discussions, poster sessions, selected oral presentations and pre-conference courses spanning multiple areas of psychoneuroimmunology, including neuropsychiatry, immunology, aging, neurodegeneration, stress biology, neuroimmune communication, infectious disease, metabolism, and translational neuroscience.





Importantly, the symposium created opportunities for deeper scientific exchange and stronger regional integration while maintaining the international character of the PNIRS community. Researchers from Latin America, North America, and Europe participated as speakers and collaborators, reinforcing the global connections established through PNIRS Ibero-America.

Strengthening psychoneuroimmunology in Brazil and Ibero-America

The symposium also created an opportunity for PNIRS members and researchers from Minas Gerais to discuss strategies for strengthening psychoneuroimmunology research locally, but the discussion naturally expanded into a broader conversation on advancing the field across Brazil, including collaboration, trainee development, and international exchange opportunities through the network. Discussions also highlighted the potential role of national collaborative networks, such as INCT (Institutos Nacionais de Ciência e Tecnologia), in fostering multicenter collaborations and expanding research and training opportunities across the country.



Researchers participating in the roundtable discussion on psychoneuroimmunology in Brazil. From left to right: Luciana Drummond de Carvalho (UFSJ), Aline Miranda (UFMG), Eliana Toscano (UFJF), Vivian Vasconcelos Costa (UFMG), Wilson Savino (Fiocruz Institute and INCT)

Symposium highlights



Aline Miranda
and Elisa
Caetano-Silva,
organizers of the
4th PNIRS Ibero-
America
Symposium



Behind every successful symposium is a dedicated team: some of the organizing committee members of the 4th Ibero-America Symposium (and many more who contributed behind the scenes).

Symposium highlights



A roundtable on academic career development and international exchange opportunities brought together researchers at different career stages, with a special focus on students and early-career scientists. Panelists included researchers from Brazil, Europe, and North America.

Speakers gathered for a special dinner. A moment to celebrate, network, and build the connections that make science thrive.



Symposium highlights



Some of our PNIRS members (Melissa Rosenkranz, Nicolas Rohleder, Ruth Barrientos), who enriched the symposium as invited speakers, joined organizers to celebrate over traditional 'comida mineira' (the regional cuisine of Minas Gerais) after a successful event.

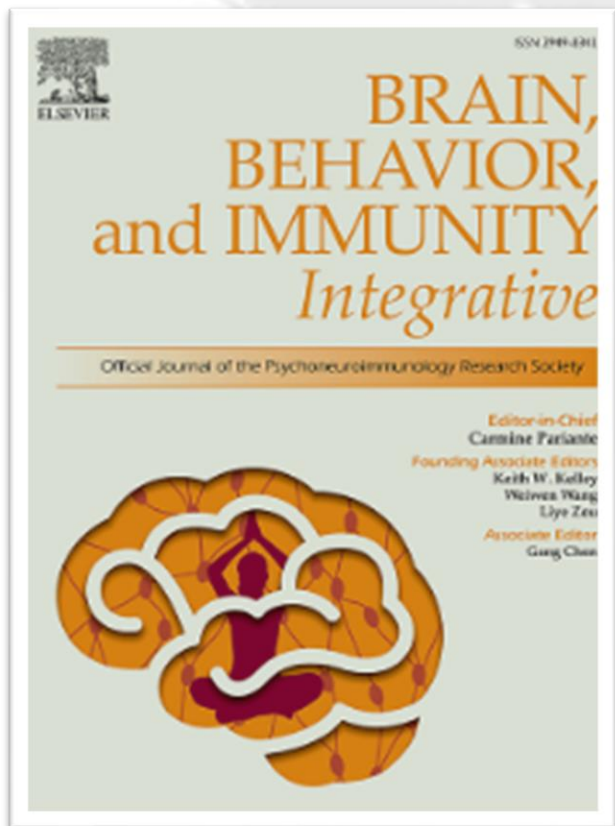


Our sincere gratitude to our president, Ruth Barrientos, whose contributions were instrumental to the success of the symposium.



To close the symposium, Elisa Caetano-Silva shared a reflection inspired by a concept she learned from Wilson Savino: **UBUNTU**, an African philosophy meaning 'I am because we are'. It is a reminder that psychoneuroimmunology, by its very nature, is built on connection: between disciplines, between researchers, between regions. A guiding spirit for PNIRS Ibero-America, and a call to keep reaching across boundaries to do more, together.

Special issue in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity – Integrative



To consolidate and extend the scientific impact of the 4th PNIRS Ibero-America Symposium, the organizing committee established a dedicated Special Issue in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity – Integrative focused on psychoneuroimmunology research in Ibero-America.

The Special Issue, titled: Psychoneuroimmunology in Ibero-America: integrative perspectives from the 4th PNIRS Ibero-America Symposium aims to highlight emerging discoveries, foster scientific visibility, and strengthen the international presence of researchers working in psychoneuroimmunology across the region.

Importantly, article processing charges (APC) were fully waived for accepted manuscripts, helping ensure accessibility and broad participation from investigators across different institutions and countries.

The call for manuscripts is still open! We encourage researchers across Ibero-America to submit their work.

The initiative also represents an important step toward creating lasting scientific products associated with PNIRS Ibero-America activities and strengthening collaborative publication opportunities within the network.

Final remarks and plans for the year ahead

PNIRS Ibero-America continues to grow as a collaborative and internationally connected scientific community dedicated to advancing psychoneuroimmunology across the Ibero-American region. The successful organization of our first standalone symposium represents an important milestone, but also the beginning of a broader long-term effort to strengthen scientific exchange, mentorship, and international collaboration in the field. Looking ahead, our goals for the coming year include:



Expanding regional representation by strengthening collaborations across additional Latin American countries



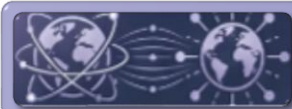
Continuing the organization of dedicated PNIRS Ibero-America meetings while maintaining partnerships with broader scientific societies



Expanding networking and outreach initiatives to facilitate continuous communication across the community, including the development of a PNIRS Ibero-America email group through groups.io to share opportunities and future initiatives across the network.



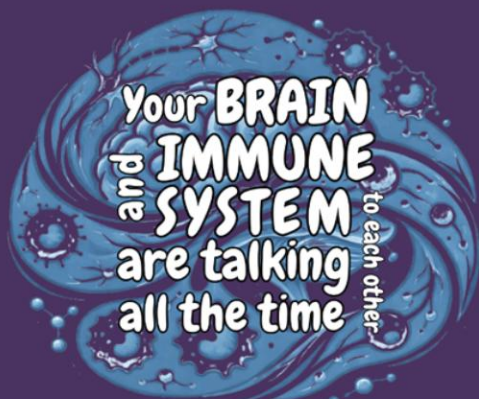
Increasing opportunities for trainees and early-career investigators through mentorship and collaborative activities



Strengthening international collaborations between Ibero-American researchers and the broader PNIRS network



Supporting the publication and dissemination of research emerging from the PNIRS Ibero-America community through the ongoing BBI-Integrative Special Issue.



PNIRS IBERO-AMERICA

None of this would be possible without the people who make up our community. We are grateful to PNIRS leadership, our speakers, and collaborators for helping build and sustain this growing network. We look forward to another year of scientific exchange and continued growth.

Committee members (2025-2026)

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