

# PNIRS Ibero-America Annual Committee Report

June 1, 2024 to May 10, 2025

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We are pleased to share the latest updates from PNIRS Ibero-America, marking a year of significant growth, collaboration, and scientific impact. With the steadfast support of PNIRS leadership, we expanded our network across the region, welcomed new members who are already contributing to major initiatives, and successfully organized two international symposia that strengthened our scientific visibility. We continued the regular distribution of our newsletter to maintain active communication within our community and laid the groundwork for an important milestone: the organization of our first stand-alone international symposium, planned for 2025. We are especially grateful to the speakers who generously dedicated their time, shared their expertise, and covered their own travel expenses to participate in our symposia in Brazil — their commitment was essential to making these events a success.

## Welcoming a New Member

This year, we were thrilled to welcome Dr. Aline Silva de Miranda (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil) as a new member of PNIRS Ibero-America. Her involvement has already proven transformative, opening exciting new avenues for grant development and collaborations. Notably, Dr. Miranda was central to a funding proposal currently under review, aiming to support our first stand-alone symposium in 2025.

**Dr. Aline Silva de Miranda** is a neuroscientist and Associate Professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil. Her research focuses on neuroinflammation, with particular emphasis on identifying inflammatory biomarkers in traumatic brain injury and other neurological disorders. She plays a leading role in translational neuroscience initiatives in Brazil and has been instrumental in expanding collaborative and funding opportunities within PNIRS Ibero-America.



**Aline Silva de Miranda, PhD**  
Federal University of Minas Gerais  
(UFMG), Brazil

## *Second Symposium*

# Congress of the Brazilian Society of Immunology (SBI)

Location: Fortaleza, Brazil

Date: September 26-28, 2024



Building on the success of our inaugural event, we organized our second symposium during the prestigious SBI Congress. Originally invited by SBI President Dr. Moisés Bauer, Dr. Ruth Barrientos (The Ohio State University) was featured as a speaker, and her participation evolved into a full PNIRS Ibero-America symposium. The session included talks by Dr. Peter Grace (The University of Texas) and Dr. Antoine Louveau (Case Western Reserve University), who shared important new findings in psychoneuroimmunology. The event was a resounding success and led to Dr. Barrientos being invited again as a keynote speaker for the SBNeC meeting.





### Third symposium

# Congress of the Brazilian Society of Neuroscience and Behavior (SBNeC)

Location: Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil

Date: October 28 to November 1, 2024



Our third symposium, titled **Integrative Approaches in Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI)**, was organized upon invitation from SBNeC's former president, Dr. Deborah Suchecki. This session highlighted multidisciplinary perspectives in PNI, with presentations by:

- Dr. Erica Glasper (The Ohio State University), on sex differences, social behavior, and neuroimmune responses following early-life loss
- Dr. Aline Silva de Miranda (Federal University of Minas Gerais), on inflammatory biomarkers in traumatic brain injury
- Dr. Maria Elisa Caetano-Silva (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), on psychological stress-induced disruptions to the brain-gut-microbiota axis.



## ***4<sup>th</sup> Symposium - Upcoming***

Funding proposal submitted to FAPEMIG  
Planned for: October 9-10, 2025  
Belo Horizonte, Brazil



Federal University of Minas  
Gerais (UFMG), Brazil

### ***IV International Symposium of Psychoneuroimmunology Ibero-America: Fostering Innovation and Collaboration***

We are excited to announce our first stand-alone symposium, a major milestone for PNIRS Ibero-America. Unlike previous events held within broader scientific congresses, this dedicated event marks our independence and growing visibility. A funding proposal to support this initiative was submitted to FAPEMIG through Dr. Aline Silva de Miranda, affiliated with the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), and is currently under review.

The confirmed speaker lineup includes:

- Aline Silva Miranda, PhD (UFMG, Brazil)
- Antonio Lucio Teixeira, PhD (University of Texas, USA)
- Diego Gomez-Nicola, PhD (University of Southampton, UK) Eliana Toscano, PhD (UFJF, Brazil)
- Érica Vieira, PhD (CAMH – University of Toronto, Canada)
- Hugo Pellufo, PhD (Universitat de Barcelona / Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Uruguay)
- Izan Chalen Paredes, MS (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA)
- Jonathan Godbout, PhD (The Ohio State University, USA)
- Elisa Caetano Silva, PhD (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA)
- Melissa Rosenkranz, PhD (University of Wisconsin, USA)
- Natalia Pessoa Rocha, PhD (University of Texas, USA)
- Nicolas Rohleder, PhD (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Germany)
- Rafael Jaime Gonzalez Ricon, MS (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA)
- Ruth M. Barrientos, PhD (The Ohio State University, USA)

# Final remarks and plans for the year ahead

We are proud to support the ongoing development of a dynamic, inclusive, and collaborative PNI community in the Ibero-American region. With the continued support of PNIRS leadership and the dedication of our members, PNIRS Ibero-America continues to grow in scope, participation, and visibility. Looking ahead, we are focused on several exciting initiatives:

1. Hosting our first stand-alone symposium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil (October 2025)
2. Proposing a Special Issue for Brain, Behavior, and Immunity – Integrative to highlight the work of PNIRS Ibero-America members
3. Expanding our symposia to other countries in Latin America to increase regional representation
4. Organizing an outreach event to showcase the benefits of PNIRS membership and attract more Ibero-American PIs to PNIRS
5. Enhancing training opportunities for early-career researchers
6. Strengthening international collaborations to support innovation and growth

We look forward to another year of collaboration and scientific advancement as we work to elevate the global visibility of Ibero-American science in psychoneuroimmunology.