

A view from a latin american crystallography laboratory

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As it is well known, Crystallography is an interdisciplinary subject involving physicists, chemists, biologists, and many other fundamental and applied solid-state scientists. The valuable information about the crystal and molecular structure of any crystalline material provided by our discipline is of paramount importance to rationalize the properties of a wide range of materials, from a pure organic pharmaceutical compound to an inorganic electronic material. As members of a Crystallography Laboratory of a Venezuelan University for many years we have had the opportunity to interact not only with a large number of scientists from our country but also with many Latin American scientists, with different backgrounds, interested in carrying out the structure characterization of diverse materials of their interest. The collaborative spirit that has permeated our discipline since its beginnings and the clear purpose laid out by the founder of our Laboratory more than 50 years ago, to support the efforts of many fellow scientists, have given us the opportunity to interact with great people from different scientific disciplines, nationalities and cultural backgrounds. During these years, we have learned to appreciate the camaraderie among fellow collaborators and the joy which comes from the modest accomplishments we have achieved together. We certainly have grown as scientists, particularly as crystallographers, and as human beings above all. In this communication, we will try to convey some of the good moments of our journey.

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