

IAEA-CN-332/451

### **Enhancing Irradiation Capacities for Tissue Engineering and Tissue Banking in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Impact of an IAEA Regional Project**

**P. Bustamante** (Comision Nacional de Energia Atomica), C. Vasco (EPN), C. Guerrero Serrano (Instituto Distrital de Biotecnología, Ciencia e Innovación en Salud), E. Velasquez (Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission), F. Barrios (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas), I. Otero (Centro de Aplicaciones Tecnológicas y Desarrollo Nuclear (Ceaden), J. Pachado (Comision Nacional de Energia Atomica), M. Mathor (IPEN-CNEN/SP), M. Martinez (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Nucleares), M. Vogt (Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica (Argentina), M. Rojas (Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica), M. Bengochea (Instituto Nacional de Donación y Trasplante), R. Gittens (Instituto de Investigaciones Científicas y Servicios de Alta Tecnología AIP), S. Zaputovich (Centro Nacional de Quemaduras y Cirugías Reconstructivas.), E. Castro (Instituto Peruano de Energia Nuclear)

The RLA1018 Project: Strengthening Irradiation Capacities of Tissues Used as Scaffolds in Tissue Engineering for Regenerative Medicine had a positive impact on the Latin America and Caribbean region. Despite being largely conducted during COVID-19 lockdowns, this project did not hinder the thirteen participating countries from achieving their goal of enhancing irradiation capacities for tissues used in tissue engineering for regenerative medicine.

During the project, numerous events were organized, both virtual and in-person, along with the creation of promotional materials in both print and digital media. These activities contributed to increasing the visibility of the "Code of Practice for the Irradiation Sterilization of Human Tissues for Clinical Use: Requirements for Validation and Routine Control," strategies for radiation-assisted production in tissue engineering products, training courses for healthcare professionals, as well as participation in national and international congresses and scientific events. These initiatives strengthened interaction among participants and successfully established an active network in the field of regenerative medicine, promoting ongoing collaboration among professionals in the Latin America and Caribbean region.