

The History of the Meetings on Photochemistry in Latin-America.
 “Encuentros Latinoamericanos de Fotoquímica y Fotobiología
 (ELAFOT)” and other Meetings.

In 2004, on the occasion of the VIII ELAFOT in La Plata, Argentina, John Simon and myself wrote an article on the history of these meetings (*Photochem. Photobiol.* 2005, 81, 768-770). A Table with the ELAFOT meetings sequence is shown below.

In 2006, The Inter-American Photochemical Society (I-APS) organized its meeting in San Salvador de Bahia, Brazil (five years after its previous Latin-American Meeting in Ascochinga, Córdoba, Argentina). It was a wonderful meeting in an impressive setting. Reports of the meeting and of the awards ceremony in San Salvador can be seen in http://www.i-aps.org/nl-nov06/iaps-newsletter_2006.pdf.

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| 1^{er} ELAFOT | Santiago de Chile | Chile | 1982 |
| 2^o ELAFOT | Sao Carlos | Brasil | 1988 |
| 3^{er} ELAFOT | Mar del Plata | Argentina | 1991 |
| IV ELAFOT | Valparaíso | Chile | 1994 |
| V ELAFOT | Los Cocos | Argentina | 1997 |
| VI ELAFOT | Teresopolis | Brasil | 1999 |
| VII ELAFOT | Viña del Mar | Chile | 2002 |
| VIII ELAFOT | La Plata | Argentina | 2004 |
| IX ELAFOT | Cubatao | Brasil | 2008 |
| X ELAFOT | La Serena | Chile | 2010 |
| XI ELAFOT | Córdoba | Argentina | 2012 |

Frank Quina, Claudio Nascimento, José Carlos Netto Ferreira and Amauri Marcato organized in November 2008 the IXth ELAFOT in the Centro de Capacitação e Pesquisa em Meio Ambiente (CEPEMA, Center for Environmental Research and Training) in Cubatão, Brasil. It was again an excellent meeting, almost **on** the beach, namely in a hotel directly on the beach border. A couple of days before the ELAFOT, we had the opportunity of celebrating Esther Oliveros 60th birthday, with a scientific symposium and a party also in Cubatão.

The Chilean colleagues planned the Xth ELAFOT (called XELAFOT) to be held in La Serena, Chile, in April 2010. Unfortunately, due to the Chilean devastating earthquake and its consequences, the meeting had to be cancelled. Elsa Abuin, Antonio Zanocco, Alexis Aspee, Nancy Pizarro, Else Lempe, Marco Soto, Julio de la Fuente, Eduardo Silva, Andrés Olea and German Günther made a tremendous effort

and managed to recall the meeting in the same place in October 2010. During the meeting, which was scientifically and personally a wonderful experience, we lived through the emotions of the rescue of the 33 miners, who were brought to the surface during the Conference days (see report in <https://www.esp-photobiology.it/esp/file/x-elafot.pdf>). A session during the Conference was dedicated to Carlos Previtali, leader of the photochemistry group at the University of Rio Cuarto (Argentina) and teacher of several generations of photochemists and another one was dedicated to Eduardo Silva (Universidad Católica de Chile) who has established an internationally recognized research group on flavins and the chemistry of their photoexcited states.

In May 2011, the I-APS held its meeting in Latin-America in Mendoza, Argentina, wonderfully organized by Pedro Aramendía, Ana Moore, Gonzalo Cosa, Mónica González, Valeria Kleiman, Teresa Atvars and Elsa Abuin (Chile). The local organizing Committee was formed by Beatriz Barja, Mónica González, Carolina Lorente, María Julia Roberti, and Andrés Thomas (all five from Argentina). A workshop preceded the meeting treating specific photochemical aspects mostly related to novel materials and techniques to study them, and solar energy conversion. See the reports in http://www.i-aps.org/2011_reports/21st_conference.pdf.

In October 2012 we will meet in Córdoba, the Argentine city with a permanent good weather, in the Hotel La Cañada. The meeting promises already to be wonderful as well as a socially and scientifically enriching occasion.

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