

Clinical virology is today a very important part of the infectious diseases practice and the diagnostic virology, as its main tool, has progressed rapidly in recent years. The Pan American Society of Clinical Virology (PASCV) is an organization that was founded in 1977 and has dedicated its work to disseminate and bring together all those who work, both in the development of techniques, quality control of its reagents, and of course all who use them in day-to-day basis with patients. Since the first days of this society, wide participation and extension have been promoted to Latin American countries, which mainly due to the high cost associated to the practice of diagnostic virology, have an uneven development of this discipline. In this sense, the society offers support every year, to Latin American representatives to present their results and share with peers from the rest of the world. Each symposium offers updates in all areas of clinical virology: viral pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, laboratory diagnosis, infection control and antiviral therapy. Especially invited to participate in this society are medical directors, infectious disease specialists, medical technologists, researchers and professionals who work associated with clinical virology laboratories, either in Latin America, the Caribbean and also members of the Societies of Clinical Virology or Infectious Diseases in Europe and Asia. My experience of more than 25 years in this group has been excellent, I have had the opportunity to meet many professionals who generously share their knowledge and experience. It is a real pleasure to meet them every year. The family environment of the meetings makes learning enjoyable and enhances the enthusiasm for asking questions and return at home with new ideas to set up in our work centers. I strongly recommend joining this society and actively participate in the workshops and symposiums, continuing education activities and other meetings associated with the specialty. I am sure that once you have the experience, you this will share it to others and will appreciate this benefit that finally goes to help and improve the care of our patients. - *Marcela Ferrés M.D., MPH; Pontificia Universidad Católica Chile*