

Editorial

The Brazilian Society of Ecotoxicology (Ecotox Brazil) was founded in 2000 to further research and development in the area of ecotoxicology and environmental chemistry. One of the aims is to develop a forum for ecotoxicologists and provide opportunities to train people to apply effective resources to manage and solve environmental problems generated by a wide range of human activities.

Ecotox Brazil is the Brazilian chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Latin America (SETAC LA), one of the Geographic Units (GUs) of SETAC, which include SETAC Africa, SETAC Asia-Pacific, SETAC Europe, SETAC Latin America and SETAC North America. In Latin America, we have the Argentinian and Ecotox-Brazil chapters, and the Chilean chapter is in progress.

In 2010, during the XI Brazilian Congress of Ecotoxicology, Ecotox Brazil was invited to become a chapter of SETAC LA and to be part of SETAC. The members unanimously approved the proposal, which included that the legal name Brazilian Society of Ecotoxicology, the abbreviation Ecotox Brazil, and SETAC Brazil could be used. Ecotox Brazil also appoints a voting member to be part of the Board of SETAC LA to participate in the discussions and decisions. Ecotox Brazil activities, such as the Brazilian Congress of Ecotoxicology, remain independent of SETAC and maintain its administrative and financial independence. With this agreement, Ecotox Brazil members automatically became members of SETAC LA and SETAC at a global level, taking advantage of all the membership benefits of this renowned, global scientific society. The benefits include access to multi-disciplinary meetings, a great place to spread the latest environmental science research and application tools, and to facilitate networking, share experiences and ideas. Recently, SETAC LA created the Scientific Committee and Awards Committee and is in the process of establishing the Education Committee.

One of the core principles of SETAC is its multidisciplinary approach to advancing science and to include members from the academic, government, business and nongovernmental sectors in decision-making. In this sense, SETAC LA is working hard to maintain this balance.

Being part of Ecotox Brazil is essential to Brazilians to exchange information and ideas for the development and use of multidisciplinary scientific principles and practices leading to sustainable environmental quality. Ensuring the integrity of science means contributing to the development of the next generation of scientists, which is why students and young scientists are a priority for SETAC. The SETAC

LA Student Advisory Council (LASAC) provides a voice for student members of SETAC and represents their interests within SETAC LA and worldwide. This initiative is designed to encourage widespread and meaningful participation of student members and to encourage them to stay involved with SETAC LA after graduation. One of the global SETAC student activities include the Young Environmental Scientists (YES) meetings, where young environmental professionals can share their ideas and strengthen experiences for students of SETAC at a global level. It is very important to have the Brazilian studentmembers involved in this process.

With this agreement, the members of Ecotox Brazil also have the benefit to freely access the SETAC journals. Journals are always a permanent forum of discussion furthering scientific knowledge, disseminating valuable information and sharing information on a global level. In addition, Ecotox Brazil has its own journal, *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Contamination (EEC)*, which is also a great opportunity to disseminate scientific results. EEC is published in English,

Portuguese or Spanish, which makes information more accessible for Latin America.

For more information about SETAC member benefits, please visit the ecotoxbrasil.org.br and www.setac.org. SETAC is currently in the process of improving its membership model and associated benefits, so stay tuned for news in 2023!

Get involved! Your participation in Ecotox Brazil is essential to the advancement of ecotoxicology in Brazil and in Latin America.

Helena Cristina da Silva de Assis
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