

EDITORIAL

The Research Institute for Health Sciences (IICS) is moving into a new building at the University Campus of the National University of Asuncion

The Research Institute for Health Sciences (IICS) was created in 1980 in the old building next to the then National Maternity Office. For almost 35 years, IICS has been offering to the Paraguayan population, specialized services, teaching and especially research in the area of health. The products of these activities can be corroborated by the several awards won by the Institute: the National Science Award on three occasions granted by the Paraguayan Congress; 12 graduates from the master program in Biomedical Sciences, and more than 400 publications in national and international refereed scientific journals. This year, 2014, after several years of waiting, as desired by all members of the great family of the IICS, we moved to our new building on the main campus of the National University of Asunción in the city of San Lorenzo, where we continue to provide quality in its three areas of our competence.

It is noteworthy that the move was done very successfully, receiving cooperation of various institutions of the Paraguayan State.

At the time of moving, the institution did not have the necessary budget for this monumental task, therefore it was necessary to appeal to various State Institutions. In the first place, we acknowledge with a Special Mention the cooperation we received from the Armed Forces of the Paraguayan Army, that made available not only their vehicles, but also the invaluable collaboration of volunteers, who made an impossible task possible in the dismantling, transfer and assembly of furniture and equipment of the institution, all of them of great value.

We also received the collaboration of the National Navigation and Ports, when special equipment to transport heavy elements was necessary, such as the old planar gamma camera which will be used from now on in the training of technicians.

The Office of the National University of Asunción, through its maintenance department, was also present, kindly dismantling a great number of moveable wall partitions/screens, among other things.

The Faculty of Medicine of the UNA assisted with many requests, even making available its electric generator. This was invaluable help to the IICS.

It should be mentioned that this move would have been impossible without the cooperation and support of each and every one of IICS personnel. They gave their all, even working after hours so that this huge task was performed smoothly. Some personnel even used their own transport or, as did some departments of the institution, rented special vehicles for the transport of materials and equipment, such as various laminar flows which are used for handling infectious substances, a Flow cytometer which is used for diagnosis of immunodeficiencies, and sub-typing of leukemias, among others.

!What a great team is the group of people working in this prestigious institution!

What remains now is the final delivery of the new building and its opening; event that is expected to occur in February 2015. At that time, the IICS will have a new service that will revolutionize the imaging diagnosis system in our country, the Gamma camera SPECT type (tomography by single photon emission) that provides a three-dimensional tomographic image, which was donated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Installation is scheduled for mid-December this year. The launch of the new

nuclear medicine service of the IICS is a big gamble by the National University of Asunción, with advanced technology that enable early diagnosis, monitoring and proper management of prevalent diseases in our country. The modernity of this new equipment will benefit the public health system with up to 2000 diagnoses per year.

To all of the great team that makes up this institution, and who are dedicated to specialized service, education and, above all, to Research wishes of success and good luck in this new phase of the IICS.

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