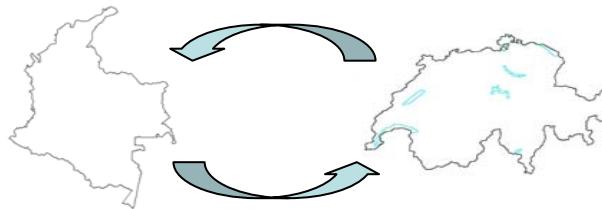


Asociación Colombiana de Investigadores en Suiza ACIS

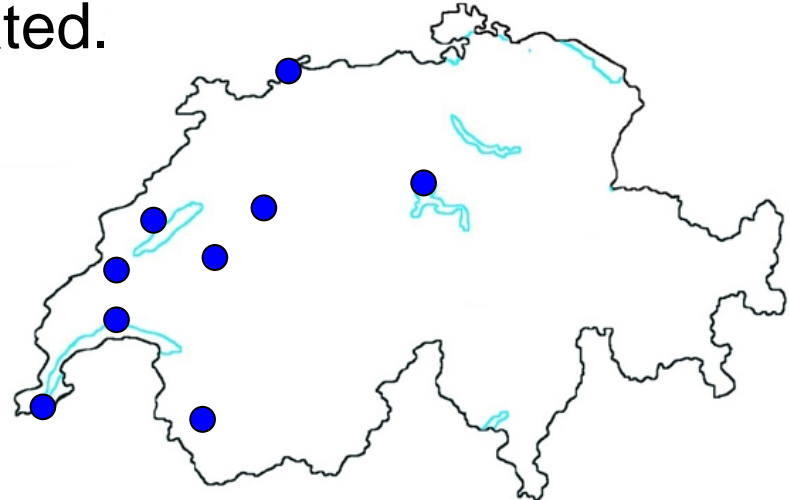
Dr. Ricardo Chavarriaga
contact@acis.ch



Who am I?

- Born in Cali, Colombia 1974; In Switzerland since October 2000
- Education:
 - 1998: Electronics Engineering, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia
 - 2000: Graduate School in Computer Science, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
 - 2005: PhD Computer Science/Life Sciences, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
 - Now: Research scientist, IDIAP Research institute, Martigny, Switzerland

- Colombian scientific diaspora network in Switzerland
- Created in 1992 by a group of colombian researchers at EPFL. Hosting and pioneer node Red Caldas
- About 60 people associated.



- www.acis.ch
- contact@acis.ch
- Mail list: acis@listes.epfl.ch

ACIS: Objectives

- To establish a network of individuals involved or interested in the development of the scientific cooperation between Colombia and Switzerland
- To maintain and provide accurate and up-to-date information about experiences of scientific cooperation between the two countries
- To promote the interaction of the colombian scientific diaspora with academic and politic institutions related to science, and technology

- Highlight the potential of colombian diaspora in Switzerland
 - Maintenance of a database of scientific cooperation experiences
 - Divulagation of scientific activities of the diaspora
 - 2003 - 10th Anniversary workshop
 - 2007 - Workshop “Experiences of the Colombian scientific diaspora”
 - 2007 - Swiss network of scientific diasporas
 - Other initiatives
 - Scientific events of general interest (e.g. technical visits; Seminars on Intellectual property)
 - Participation in events: Vivapoly, IdM Semaine Cap Sud, EPFL
 - 2004 - Photo exposition, EPFL

- Knowledge transfer and sharing
 - Joint projects, courses, student exchanges
 - Colombian network of computational intelligence.
 - 2004 - International Book Fair. “Colombian culture in the diaspora”
- Bottom-up enhancement of bilateral scientific cooperation
 - 2002 - Workshop on scientific partnerships, Cartagena
 - 2002 - IRD expertise on scientific diasporas, Paris
 - 2005 - Bilateral project COCH on Biotechnology;
 - Participation on the study of new bilateral scientific endeavours

Enabling factors

- Institutional support from academic institutions in Switzerland
 - FNRS scholarships (~ 4/year)
 - Continuous efforts from Colombian researchers holding permanent positions in Swiss universities
 - Environment: Prof. Cesar Pulgarín, EPFL / Univalle, Uniandes, Ecopetrol
 - Life sciences: Prof. Pedro Romero, Ludwig Inst, UNIL, SIB / Univalle, CIDEIM
 - Computer science: Prof. Eduardo Sanchez, EPFL-HEIG-VD / Univalle, CIAT
- Close relationships with Colombian universities and institutions
 - Projects, student exchanges, courses
 - Permanent contact with Colombian organisms (Colciencias, Embassy of Colombia)

Hindering factors

- Scientific community is inherently mobile
 - Diaspora in constant change, so are the members of the association
- Strong link to EPFL, and particular research axis (i.e. engineering, chemistry)
 - Social sciences are largely underrepresented
- No ties with industry
- Lack of structural base (e.g. financial support, staff)

What's next - Challenges

- Diversify the association. Incorporation of new members.
 - Cross the Röstigraben
 - Expand to other research areas
 - Develop links with private sector
- Improve dissemination of the achievements of the scientific colombian diaspora
 - Increase frequency of public events
 - Newsletter
- Reinforce the association through institutional support.

Asociación Colombiana de Investigadores en Suiza

- The Colombian scientific diaspora network in Switzerland
- Website: ww.acis.ch
- More info: contact@acis.ch
- Mail list: acis@listes.epfl.ch

