The Universidad Mayor de San Andrés recognized the merit to the scientific and technological activities of thirty-eight researchers, as an important incentive to the work they develop in their respective areas, and commit them to continue working to sustain and promote research at our university.

The recognition ceremony was presided over by the Rector, Oscar Heredia Vargas, and the Vice Rector, María Eugenia García Moreno, with the participation of the Vice Minister of Science and Technology, the Secretary General, Israel Centellas Vargas, deans, vice deans, directors of research institutes and the researchers recognized for their scientific production.

The distinction was awarded on May 13, during an event called "UMSA building scientific culture" organized by the Department of Research, Graduate Studies and Social Interaction in coordination with the Vice Rector's Office, under the premise that scientific culture is also a transcendent protagonist of an innovative university, beyond the fulfillment of its mission of teaching and transmitting knowledge.

The promotion of scientific culture contributes to social change and inculcates the construction of scientific culture in society, with the intervention of both the processes of communication of scientific results and values, and the understanding of the social dynamics of science, i.e. the way people relate to scientific activity, which implies not only having information but also preparation and skills that allow them to situate knowledge in its essence and meaning, for the social construction of interpretations of the knowledge generated. Knowledge in its essence and meaning, for the social construction of interpretations of the knowledge generated.

"Today, the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés celebrates the capacity of thought formed and equipped with structures of critical, creative and analytical thinking, and confronting reflections that seek the truth, proposing solutions and proposing innovations. The UMSA recognizes those who make our university valid and through their trajectory and work are at the service of its mission for the constant growth of research; may this recognition be an impulse to continue with their task knowing that there is a community that thanks them”, said the UMSA rector, Oscar Heredia Vargas.

We welcome the entry of our institution into the Research Management and Communication System of the
Science that expands the strengthening of the research network.

"Let's build a scientific culture and let's possess an academic and creative image of UMSA at a national and international level", concluded Oscar Heredia.

Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor, María Eugenia García, commented that UMSA is very honored to recognize on this day the researchers who have won the Plurinational Science and Technology Award 2020 in different areas and researchers with a greater number of publications visible worldwide. He congratulated and thanked the DIPGIS who made this recognition possible "In this new rectoral management we are committed to strengthen scientific research, support researchers by reducing administrative processes and work with intensity the development of research in UMSA and the country".

The Head of DIPGS, Mauro Costantino, highlighted the recognition of the scientific production of researchers because this is showing how much research generated at UMSA contributes to regional and national level. He mentioned the work done by the DIPGIS to implement the UMSA Research Management and Science Communication System with information on the profiles and scientific production of researchers to increase visibility and promote collaborative networks in research communities globally, and the research process from the researcher himself, the research teams, their connections with the rest of the world and publications. This information must be available to those who see us from the outside because by knowing the state of affairs and research indicators at institutional, regional and global level we can make decisions and take more accurate steps towards the future of research, he added.

**Master Lectures**

In the first part of the recognition ceremony, two conferences were presented via ZOOM from Brazil with experts from Elsevier, the largest publisher of scientific literature in the world:

- "Trends in scientific research UMSA 2018 - 2021" by Justin Mytton, account manager for South America of Elsevier, and
- "UMSA's research management and science communication system", by Moisés Moreno, senior manager of Pure, a research management system of Elsevier.
The first conference presented statistical data from 220 countries and 26 thousand research institutions worldwide, according to this report UMSA has the largest community of researchers who have published more than any other Bolivian institution with 443 articles in international and peer-reviewed journals published which represents 27.6 percent of Bolivia's scientific production in 2020. Of the total 443 published articles, 21.3 percent correspond to the area of biological sciences and agriculture, followed by the area of environmental sciences with 15.2 percent.

In the 2017-2020 period, UMSA's International collaboration with 866 institutions had a strong impact on the growth of scientific publications. This collaboration generated a total of 419 publications.

The recognition of researchers with the highest scientific production published in SCOPUS was awarded based on the Elsevier report presented by Justin Mytton. The data presented at the conference showed that UMSA has grown in the number of international publications in the last three years.

The second conference made reference to UMSA's Research Management and Science Communication System, called the Current Research Information System (CRIS), which can capture, report, display, identify and analyze information on the profiles and scientific output of researchers, to increase visibility and foster collaborative networks in research communities globally.

This system will promote national and international visibility of the results of UMSA projects, achievements, activities and research groups, strengthen research collaborations, and improve institutional productivity in scientific publications.

In 2021, UMSA will be the first Bolivian university to implement a modern Researcher Management System (Elsevier PURE).

**UMSA does quality research**

On behalf of the researchers who won the Plurinational Science and Technology Award, researcher Giovanna Almanza from the Institute of Chemical Research thanked UMSA, the team of researchers and the institutions that financed the project for their recognition. Providing concrete answers to society's demands requires difficult but possible work, such as forming multidisciplinary teams, synergies among researchers, obtaining financing, and establishing collaborations with companies and communities. The fact that UMSA has won several awards in different categories of the national prize is evidence that it is doing quality research, he said.
Alberto Giménez Turba, researcher of the Instituto de Investigaciones Fármaco Bioquímicas Quisiera, on behalf of the researchers with the highest scientific production published in the SCOPUS database, expressed his sincere and deep appreciation for the distinction granted by UMSA, organized through DIPGIS. He highlighted the importance of establishing and sustaining, over time, trustworthy scientific relationships with international peers, activities that are consolidated through joint publications, as a result of the effort made in the task of visualizing and internationalizing part of the research activities developed in the institutes of our university. He thanked the DIPGIS for the support it provides to researchers in the management and administrative-financial execution of externally funded projects. He called for the incorporation of young talents trained at the PhD level and to allow the sustainability and development of a Scientific PhD program.

**Winning researchers of the Plurinational Science and Technology Award 2020**

**First place category: Natural Resources, Environment and Biodiversity**

- Project "Study of Species of the Baccharis Genus of La Paz for its valorization and sustainable use"

**Chemical Research Institute Coordinator:**
- Giovanna Rocío Almanza Vega Ph.D.
- D. Yonny R. Flores Segura Ph.D.
- Lily Salcedo Ortiz Ph.D.
- Ángela San Martin (IIQ)
- Alberto Calle (IIQ)
- Silvia E. Ramos (IIQ)
- Santiago Tarqui (IIQ)

**Jardín Botánico/ Ecology Institute (JBLP)**
- Esther Valenzuela Celis M.Sc.
- J. Carlos Peñaranda (JBLP)

**Instituto de Investigaciones Fármaco Bioquímicas (IIFB)**
- Eduardo Gonzales Ph.D.
- Silvia Zambrana (IIFB)
- M. del Pilar Gutiérrez (IIFB)

**First place category: Health and Drug Industry**

- Project "Analysis of the binding of quinolizidine alkaloids present in Lupinus Mutabilis (Tarwi) to cholesterol ester transfer protein (CEP) as a strategy for the treatment of dyslipidemia in patients with obesity and DM2 through molecular docking assays".

**Pharmaco-Biochemical Research Institute**

Coordinator: Enrique Grados Tórrez Ph.D. Lic. Wendy Guadalupe Ballón Paucara

**First place category: Energy and Mining (Energy mention)**

- Project "Obtaining Dimethyl ether (DME) by different catalytic routes as an alternative to the conventional production of Diesel".

**Chemical Research Institute**

- Lic. Dayana Mariza Capcha Vargas
- Lic. Ronald Mauricio Lara Prado
- Ing. Yamil Acho Sarzuri

**Second place category: Local Knowledge and Ancestral Knowledge of the Native Indigenous Peasant Peoples**

- Project "PACHAYATIRI APP, mobile application of local knowledge and ancestral knowledge"
Geographical Research Institute:

- Coordinator: M.Sc. Ing. Javier Núñez Villalba
- Ing. Wilson Mamani Gómez
- Lic. José Luis Soza Santos

Participation in the category: Agricultural Development and Food Technologies

- Project "Potential use of coffee (coffea arabica) residues in Bolivia based on the determination of its bioactive components"

Chemical Research Institute:

- Coordinator: Giovanna Rocio Almanza Vega Ph.D.
- Lic. Sergio Daniel Torrez Álvarez
- M.Sc. Teresa Maya Pacheco Machicado

Researchers with the highest scientific production published in the SCOPUS database:

- Alberto Giménez Turba Ph.D.
- Rolando Ticona Peralta Ph.D.
- Marcos Froilán Andrade Flores Ph.D.
- Saúl Cabrera Medina Ph.D.
- Ing. Pedro Miranda Loza
- Luis Pacheco Acosta Ph.D.
- Volga Iñiguez Rojas Ph.D.
- Ramiro Pablo López Ph.D.
- Álvaro Soruco Sologuren Ph.D.
- Gonzalo Ramírez Ávila Ph.D.
- Magali García Cárdenas Ph.D.
- Mónica Moraes Ramirez Ph.D.
- Susana Revollo Zepita Ph.D.
- Mauricio Peñarrieta Loría Ph.D.

The recognition of the researcher's scientific production is within the framework of UMSA's Science, Technology and Innovation Popularization Program 2020-2025, approved by the Honorable University Council by Resolution 219/2020 of August 24, 2020, which aims to promote the dissemination of research results, strengthening UMSA's institutional positioning as a reference in research, innovation, postgraduate studies and social interaction at regional, national and international levels.
Mauro Costantino ratified as Chief of DIPGIS

The current Head of the Department of Research, Postgraduate and Social Interaction, Mauro Costantino, was ratified in the position to be part of the work team of the 2021-2024 rectoral administration of the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés.

"He is a suitable person, with experience, ideals and thought to improve the university and promote research, postgraduate studies and social interaction, which are topics linked to DIPGIS," said the Vice Rector, María Eugenia García, on the occasion of the visit made to DIPGIS to communicate to the DIPGIS staff the decision to ratify Mauro Costantino in the position.

"I would like to thank the Rector, Oscar Heredia, and the Vice Rector, María Eugenia García, for ratifying their confidence in me to continue the work that I have been carrying out in the last three months on an interim basis. I am proud to contribute to UMSA, to work in the optimization of everything that allows research to take a step forward, for example, with the strengthening of the publications of what UMSA and Bolivia produce. We need social interaction to strengthen ties with research and postgraduate studies to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the community, which finally allows us as UMSA to be at the service of society," said Mauro Costantino.

During her visit to the DIPGIS, the Vice Chancellor, María Eugenia García, was accompanied by the new heads of the University Planning Department, Antonio Vargas, and the Teaching Staff, Juan Carlos Sánchez, respectively.

The DIPGIS chief presented the Vice Rector with publications produced during the first quarter of the current administration, such as: Planificador 2021, Memoria DIPGIS gestión 2020 - abril 2021, Potencial Científico Tecnológico de la UMSA, Memoria 2013-2020 de la Agencia Sueca de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Internacional, Memoria ASDI 20 años Fortaleciendo la Capacidad de Investigación en la UMSA and Memoria del Segundo Encuentro de Investigadores de la UMSA.
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