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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

# Fostering Global Collaboration of Young Scientists

LUISA MARIA DIELE-VIEGAS, DANIEL L. DE CASTRO, MATHEUS GRAHL, THIAGO HENRIQUE ROZA, GUSTAVO R. GAMEIRO & PEDRO HENRIQUE GONZÁLEZ

The rising scientific denialism in Brazil and consequent budget cuts to scientific research within the last years have hindered international collaborations, significantly affecting early-career Brazilian scientists (Diele-Viegas et al. 2021, Guedes et al. 2023). Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic, with its restrictions on in-person events, has added another layer of challenge, further impeding international cooperation (Subramanya et al. 2020). The 8th edition of the BRICS Young Scientist Forum (BRICS YSF), held in South Africa in August 2023, started with the challenge of being the first post-pandemic event to connect promising early-career scientists from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS 2023). The event is timely for Brazilians since it occurred after the democratic election that led to the resumption of policies toward scientific, technological, and educational investments (Soares et al. 2023).

Unlike typical networks of experienced researchers (Parker & Welch 2013), BRICS YSF empowers young scientists to exchange ideas globally and fosters new, potentially enduring international cooperation. This collaboration might unfold throughout their careers, drive breakthrough research, and open new paths in diverse scientific domains. Despite their advantages, one-time events may yield passive outcomes, potentially achieving more enduring collaborations when supplemented with additional provocative elements.

The post-pandemic context, where the scientific community is eager to strengthen international collaborations and resume face-to-face meetings, represents an opportunity to highlight the central role of young scientists in international multilateral partnerships. Active strategies can support connections, cultural exchanges, and science and technology development. Suitable strategies to promote young scientists' protagonism include creating global collaboration platforms for researchers and innovators, allowing early-career leadership in working groups, providing accessible funds for early-career collaborative networks, and promoting follow-up events. Examples include opportunities from funding agencies such as the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, which recently released a call to support international scientific, technological, and

innovation research projects (CNPq 2023). If we recently experienced the rise of barriers that divided us, let the fraternal scientific relationship be one of the paths capable of breaking them down. Believe in the potential of young scientists to foster global collaborations.

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**LUISA MARIA DIELE-VIEGAS**[1]
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9225-4678

**DANIEL L. DE CASTRO**[2]
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8512-5520

**MATHEUS GRAHL**[3,4]
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4935-5211

**THIAGO HENRIQUE ROZA**[5]
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3379-2206

**GUSTAVO R. GAMEIRO**[6]
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0400-8013

**PEDRO HENRIQUE GONZÁLEZ**[7]
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0057-7670

[1]Federal University of Bahia, Laboratory of (Bio)Diversity in the Anthropocene, Biology Institute, R. Barão de Jeremoabo, 668, Ondina, 40170-115 Salvador, BA, Brazil

[2]Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Research Laboratory on Educational Opportunities, Av. Pasteur, 250, Botafogo, 22290-240 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

[3]Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Av. Ipiranga, 6681, Partenon, 90619-900 Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

[4]University Center Ritter dos Reis, School of Health Sciences, Av. Manoel Elias, 2001, Passo das Pedras 91240-261 Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

[5]Federal University of Paraná, Department of Psychiatry, Rua Padre Camargo, 280, Alto da Glória, 80060-240 Curitiba, PR, Brazil

[6]Federal University of São Paulo, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Paulista School of Medicine, R. Botucatu, 822, Vila Clementino, 04023-062 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

[7]Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, System Engineering and Computer Science Program, Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute for Graduate Studies and Research Engineering, Av. Horácio Macedo, 2030, Cidade Universitária, 21941-598 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Correspondence to: **Luisa Maria Diele-Viegas**
*E-mail: luisa.mviegas@gmail.com*

## Author contributions

All authors were responsible for creating the original concept and writing the first draft of this letter. LMDV and PHG proofread the final version.