About the Contributors

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MD MS PhD
Anesthesiologist with a master’s degree in emergency medicine and a doctorate in medical sciences. Dr. Agüero is a full professor and senior researcher at the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical–Surgical Hospital (HHA) in Havana, Cuba, where her research focuses on enhanced recovery after cardiovascular and gynecological surgery.

Dagoberto Álvarez-Aldana MD MS
Physician with dual specialties in family medicine and endocrinology at Antonio Luaces Irailoa University Hospital, Ciego de Ávila, Cuba, where he is also associate professor and adjunct researcher. Since 2018, he has been a member of Cuba’s international medical team collaborating in Luanda, Angola, including patient care and research on the clinical and sociodemographic characterization of diabetic patients.

Jesús Salim Burón-Hernández MD
Immunologist. Dr. Burón is an assistant professor and adjunct researcher in the Allergy and Immunology Department, William Soler Pediatric University Hospital in Havana, Cuba. He is currently part of the team working on the Soberana 02 intervention studies in high-risk populations. (Soberana 02 is one of Cuba’s SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates.)

Haslen Hassiul Cáceres-Lavernia MD MS
Oncologist with a master’s degree in infectious disease. Dr. Cáceres sees patients at the oncology service of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical–Surgical Hospital (HHA) in Havana, Cuba, where she is assistant professor and associate researcher. She is a member of two multidisciplinary research teams investigating the pathology of lung cancer and thoracic tumors.

Tafadzwa Dzinamarira MPH PhD
Dr Dzinamarira is a public health expert with a doctorate in health sciences with a strong background in clinical laboratory medicine, and more than seven years’ experience providing technical guidance for laboratory systems management of HIV/AIDS programs. His expertise on providing technical leadership in the design, development, planning and implementation of national household-based HIV surveys has expanded during COVID-19 to include research into pandemic responses in resource-limited settings, COVID-19 risk factors among frontline health workers, and the impact of COVID-19 on HIV services in Africa.

Alina González-Quevedo MD PhD
Physician specializing in clinical neurochemistry with a doctorate in medical sciences. Dr. González is a full professor and senior researcher at the Neurology and Neurosurgery Institute in Havana, Cuba, where she served as Deputy Director for Research from 1995 to 2010. Her research focuses on demyelinating diseases and brain–barrier systems and she is currently investigating blood-based biomarkers for prediction of asymptomatic cerebral small- vessel disease.

Calixto Machado MD PhD FAAN
Neurologist and clinical neurophysiologist with a doctorate in medical sciences. Dr. Machado is a full professor and senior researcher at the Neurology and Neurosurgery Institute in Havana, Cuba, where he heads the Neurophysiology Laboratory. He is president of the Cuban Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, chair of the Network on Defining Death of the International Bioethics Association, and chair of the Cuban Commission for Brain Death Diagnosis.

Yennisleidis Martínez-Montesino MS
Microbiologist with a master’s degree in virology, Ms. Martínez specializes in chemical, physical and mechanical assays in the Virology Department of the Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute (IPC) in Havana, Cuba. Since 2019 she has worked on validation of new serological and molecular hepatitis B diagnostic methods, and in the determination of cytokine gene polymorphisms and their association with sustained virological responses in hepatitis C patients.

Gisela María Pita-Rodríguez MD MS
Physician specializing in clinical biochemistry with a master’s degree in environmental health. Dr. Pita is an associate researcher and associate professor at the National Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology Institute in Havana, Cuba, where she heads the Nutritional Anemia Laboratory. For the past 15 years, her work has focused on evaluating nutritional anemia in vulnerable population groups and estimating vitamin, mineral and body composition indicators.