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PROCEEDINGS

XLI Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Protozoology
LII Annual Meeting on Basic Research in Chagas' Disease

*Hotel Glória, Caxambu, MG, BRASIL- C*axambu
9-11 November, 2026

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Dear Participants,

On behalf of the Brazilian Society of Protozoology (SBPz) and the Organizing Committee, we are delighted to welcome you to the XLI Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Protozoology and the LII Annual Meeting of Basic Research in Chagas Disease.

Here we are again at the Hotel Glória in Caxambu, a town whose name has long been linked to Brazilian science and, in particular, to the history of our Society. For more than five decades, these mountains of southern Minas Gerais have welcomed researchers, students and colleagues from all over the world, and the traditional "Caxambu Meeting" has become the place where we share ideas, start new collaborations and see young scientists take their first steps. Last year we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of our Society. This year we start a new decade with the same goal we have had from the very beginning: to strengthen Protozoology and the study of the diseases caused by parasitic protists, and to keep our science strong and competitive.

As usual, we have invited speakers from many countries and from different regions of Brazil to bring you some of the latest and most impactful science in the field. We would like to thank all the colleagues who sent us suggestions for the program. Unfortunately, we could not include every one of these excellent suggestions because of limited time and space, but the speakers not included this year will certainly be considered for future meetings. This year's program has ten plenary conferences and six round tables with four speakers each, covering topics from molecular and cell biology to immunology, vector biology, epidemiology and drug discovery. There are also two sessions of oral presentations and two poster sessions, where students and postdoctoral researchers will present and discuss their work. The Walter Colli and Zigman Brener Awards will go to the best presentations in each category.

This year, we are very happy to present the Samuel Pessoa Award to Professor Alejandro M. Katzin, from the Department of Parasitology, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of São Paulo, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our understanding of isoprenoid biosynthesis in *Plasmodium falciparum* and to the use of the enzymes in this poathway as potential drug targets against malaria.

Many thanks to our invited speakers, SBPz members, colleagues and students for their support and for being here. A special thank you goes to the SBPz Secretariat, Mrs. Ana Paula Lopes Vidal and Mrs. Vilma de Araújo Andrade, whose hard work, together with the Board of Directors and the SBPz Council, has kept this meeting going over the years. Much of the quality and international reputation of our meeting is thanks to them. We are also grateful for the financial support from CAPES , CNPq, FAPERJ, FAPEMIG and ISOP.

Welcome to Caxambu! We hope the program lives up to your expectations and leads to new collaborations and to the lively, high-level discussions our meetings have always been known for. Have a productive, pleasant and enjoyable meeting!

Ariel Mariano Silber
President of SBPz

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“trabalhai, trabalhai por este nobre e alto ideal --- o melhoramento da saúde de nosso povo”.
A frase citada faz parte do histórico discurso proferido pelo Prof. Dr. Samuel Barnsley Pessoa na função de paraninfo dos graduandos da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo (USP), publicado na *Revista de Medicina* em janeiro de 1941.

“...atribuir sempre a maior prioridade aos verdadeiros problemas nosológicos do homem brasileiro”
Discurso de Posse como Catedrático na Faculdade de Medicina em 1931 de Prof. Dr. Samuel Barnsley Pessoa.

Dr. Alejandro Miguel Katzin