

History of the Mexican Society of Anatomy

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SUMMARY

The Mexican Society of Anatomy (SMA) was founded in 1957. Since its creation it has been composed of the most prestigious morphologists in the country, who have achieved a solid and widely recognized society within and outside our borders.

Within a few years of its founding, the creation of the magazine entitled *Archivos Mexicanos de Anatomía (Mexican Archives of Anatomy)* was promoted, with quarterly publications that began in 1960, and whose last issue was in 2008 already in digital format.

Since its founding, the society has had 30 presidents whose main function has been to promote morphological sciences at national and international level, so during their biennial terms, according to the Statutes of the Society, they have been in charge of monthly meetings where the most current topics concerning morphological sciences are discussed, as well as the organization, together with their boards of directives, of 28 National Congresses of Anatomy, 23 National Meetings of Morphology, 12 National Student Morphology Competitions and 2 Regional Student Competitions.

Since 1961, as the statutes of the SMA point out, during each congress or meeting the “Andreas Vesalio Award” has been conferred, and since 2003 another distinction was added, called “Dedication of the Academic Year”, as the highest awards and public recognition to the morphologist or institution that stands out for its contributions and dedication to this discipline. Finally, it is important to highlight the growth that the society has had: it started with the participation of 49 founding members and it currently has 101 numeral members, 1 honorary member, 7 corresponding members, 89 student members, with a total of 198 members.

INTRODUCTION

On the eve of the celebration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Mexican Society of Anatomy, the authors of this publication have given us the task of recapitulating the most important events that have made our society a space for dialogue, teaching, coexistence and exchange of experiences of lovers of morphological sciences, and that have therefore made them a very important part in their professional and personal life.

Since it is the only Society of Anatomy in Mexican territory and one of the most important

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in Latin America, the purpose is to document and witness to the legacy they receive, and which the new generations of the different members of our society must take care of. With them it is with whom we want to share these historical facts, because by expressing their passion for morphology, they will have an interest in knowing who they were and who are the social and academic actors that have conducted the development of the society at different historical times.

FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY

The SMA was founded in 1957, and since then activities have been carried out uninterrupted to this day (Sociedad Mexicana de Anatomía, 1960-1). These activities have always been framed

in accordance with their statutes, which can be summarized as follows:

- Promoting the study of Human Anatomy and related sciences.
- Encouraging anatomical research.
- Consolidating the study of anatomical disciplines as the primary basis for medical science teaching.
- Fighting for the training of Career Masters in anatomical sciences.
- Advocating the selection of teachers from qualified professionals.
- Promoting scientific exchange and rapprochement with other societies or institutions.

Table 1. Statutes of the Mexican Society of Anatomy.

CHAPTER, TRANSIENT OR ANNEX	Objective	ITEMS
Chapter I	Denomination, headquarters and emblem	3
Chapter II	Purposes	1
Chapter III	Objectives	1
Chapter IV	Means of action	1
Chapter V	Members	1
Chapter VI	Requirements	1
Chapter VII	Attributions	4
Chapter VIII	Sanctions	1
Chapter IX	Government	1
Chapter X	Obligations	10
Chapter XI	Editorial Board	1
Chapter XII	Activities	1
Chapter XIII	Elections	5
Chapter XIV	Dues	1
Chapter XV	Legacy	1
Chapter XVI	Reforms	1
Chapter XVII	Advisory Council	5
Transitory I	Election of president and vice president	
Transitory II	Election of the Legacy secretary	
Transitory III	Election of the student representative	
Annex A	Internal regulation of the advisory council	6 chapters and 14 articles
Annex B	Rules of Procedure for National Anatomy Congresses and Meetings	12 chapters and 23 articles
Annex C	Andreas Vesalio Award	
Annex D	Academic year and dedication of the meeting or congress	
Annex E	Website	

The SMA has grouped in a single body all teachers and researchers of the morphological disciplines in Mexico, as well as the professionals whose activity favors them directly or indirectly.

STATUTES

Since its origins, the founding members established the statutes that govern us and dictate the objectives of our society, as well as the mechanisms of action to achieve them.

Similarly, these statutes clearly set out the rights and obligations of the different types of members that make up society (*Sociedad Mexicana de Anatomía*, 2020).

However, these statutes with just over half a century of life have been over the way in some respects by technological advancement and the current life of the world of academia and science, so in 2010 changes were revised and approved into new statutes: originally consisting of 15 chapters and 25 articles, the contents are now as follows: 17 chapters, 40 articles, 3 transients and 5 annexes, which we summarized in Table 1 (*Sociedad Mexicana de Anatomía*, 1960-1).

It is very important to mention that this society takes anatomy, embryology, histology and neuro-anatomy as its fundamental pillars, and includes other disciplines such as anthropology, dentistry, biology, comparative anatomy, nursing, surgery, imaging, among many others.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Since its creation, the Society has gathered the best-known morphologists in the country, who have managed to make it a solid and widely recognized society within and outside our borders. Among these 49 notable academics a number of outstanding names can be highlighted: Dr Fernando Quiroz Gutiérrez, Dr José Negrete Herrera, Dr Gregorio Benítez Padilla, Dr Salvador de Lara Galindo and Dr Luis López Antúnez, who through their works and contributions have managed to train many generations, as some of these books continue to be part of the mandatory literature in some educational institutions (see Table 2).

OFFICIAL EMBLEM

The original drawing of our emblem was made by Salvador Gómez Álvarez and became the official emblem of the Mexican Society of Anatomy since its foundation in 1957, being officialized in 1960 in the first issue of “Mexican Archives of Anatomy”.

The official emblem is an ensemble that consists of the image of a stylized eagle. In the center of that image is the figure and the name of Andreas Vesalius, the father of modern anatomy. Forming the base of the emblem is the acronym: SMA corresponding to **Mexican Society of Anatomy**. This emblem reminds us of our foundation and perennial values of this great society (*Sociedad Mexicana de Anatomía*, 1960-1) (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1.- Original drawing taken from the first edition of the magazine “Mexican Archives of Anatomy” Mexico City January 1960.

FORMER PRESIDENTS OF OUR SOCIETY

The first president of the Mexican Society of Anatomy and founding member of the society was Dr Fernando Quiroz Gutiérrez (1957 to 1959), author of the book of Human Anatomy that remains the official text of many universities inside and outside Mexico. He has been followed by a good number of morphologists, who with the staff very high, have managed to consolidate our society and place it at the level it is now. We have a great debt to all of them, as well as to their collaborators, who integrated the respective boards that, with their quiet but fundamental work, made each of the activities of society a success and a step forward of Mexican

morphology. Since its founding, these have been the presidents (Sociedad Mexicana de Anatomía, 2020):

- 1957-1959 Fernando Quiroz Gutiérrez
- 1959-1961 Enrique Acosta Vidrio
- 1962-1963 Mario García Ramos
- 1964-1966 Fernando Quiroz Pavía
- 1967-1968 Salvador de Lara Galindo
- 1969-1972 Salvador Gómez Álvarez
- 1973-1974 Gildardo Espinosa de Luna
- 1975-1976 Alicia Álvarez Ramírez
- 1977-1978 Luis Cárdenas Ramírez
- 1979-1980 Manuel Granados Navarrete
- 1981-1982 Carlos Gilbert Rodríguez
- 1983-1984 Joaquín Reyes Téllez-Girón
- 1985-1986 Felipe Zaragoza Flores
- 1987-1988 Cassandra Núñez Tovar
- 1989-1990 Ismael Herrera Vázquez
- 1991-1992 Natalio González Rosales
- 1993-1994 Eugenio Alfredo Millán Dena
- 1995-1996 Luis Delgado Reyes
- 1997-1998 Armando Pérez Torres
- 1999-2000 Andrés Castell Rodríguez
- 2001-2002 Enrique Canchola Martínez
- 2003-2004 Patricia Herrera Saint Leu
- 2005-2006 Virgilio W. Escalante Silva
- 2007-2008 S. Manuel Arteaga Martínez
- 2009-2010 Manuel Ángeles Castellanos
- 2011-2012 Miguel Herrera Enríquez
- 2013-2014 María Isabel García Peláez
- 2015-2016 William Ortiz Briceño
- 2017-2018 Antonio Soto Paulino
- 2019-2020 Rodrigo E. Elizondo Omaña
- 2021-2022 Diego Pineda Martínez (Current)

CREATION OF “MEXICAN ANATOMY ARCHIVES”

For the first time in Mexico, a publication specializing in the different branches of anatomy was considered to the medical class. It appeared in 1960 and became the official journal of the Mexican Society of Anatomy with the title *Mexican Archives of Anatomy* (see Fig. 2). It pursued the objectives of enduring, growing, improving, consolidating bonds and friendships, providing the Mexican and foreign medical class with

Table 2. List of the founding members of the Mexican Society of Anatomy.

FOUNDING MEMBERS 1957	
1. Manuel Aceves Pérez	26. Joaquín López Cabal
2. Felipe Aceves Zubieta	27. Luis E. Martínez Ballesteros
3. Enrique Acosta Vidrio	28. César Martínez Garza
4. Nicolás Aguilar García	29. Sergio Arturo Mendoza
5. Emilio Banda Sousa	30. Roberto Morales Huerta
6. Benjamín Bandera	31. Enrique Morán Huerta
7. Carlos Barrera Rosales	32. José Negrete Herrera
8. Gregorio Benítez Padilla	33. Horacio Oliva Abarca
9. Eduardo Bravo García	34. Alberto Pérez García
10. Rogelio Camacho Becerril	35. Fernando Pino Quintal
11. Graciela Coria Illizaliturri	36. Fernando Quiroz Gutiérrez
12. Gonzalo Cosío	37. Fernando Quiroz Pavía
13. Salvador de Lara Galindo	38. Joaquín Rangel Villarreal
14. Francisco García Herrera	39. Luis Robles González
15. Mario García Ramos	40. Luis Román de la Rivera
16. Carlos Gilbert Rodríguez	41. Justo Ruiz López
17. Salvador Gómez Álvarez	42. Anuar Said Said
18. Tarquino González de la Garza	43. Carlos Sevilla Monroy
19. Guillermo Hidalgo Barroso	44. Leonardo Silva Espinosa
20. Gabriel Landetta Sigüenza	45. Carlos Talancón Zapata
21. Ignacio Larios	46. Eduardo Trujillo
22. Alberto Leal Ramírez	47. Felipe Vázquez Guzmán
23. Alfredo Lejarza	48. Roberto Villarreal Villareal
24. Raymundo Limón Díaz	49. Fernando Zetina García
25. Luis López Antúnez	



Fig. 2.- Images from the first 4 issues of Mexican Archives of Anatomy magazines.

another means of expression and dissemination, contributing to the uncontrollable progress of science for the benefit of Mexico and Humanity.

The journal continued from 1960 to 1973 where it was discontinued for 5 years, resuming its regularity until 1988. Unfortunately, its last digital issue was in 2008 (see Table 3).

Below we cite the words written in the first issue of the journal, which reflect the spirit and impetus that made it grow for many years, and which should be an inspiration to revive:

“The urgent need for its emergence, coupled with our classic hardship, made the magazine’s material presentation does not fit with much, all our aspirations: we want it better, with more issues, more pages available and a higher frequency. For this we need and ask for the collaboration of all the members of the Mexican Society of Anatomy, of all the scientists and philanthropists who want to help a noble and future cause”. (Sociedad Mexicana de Anatomía, 1960-1).

NATIONAL CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges that presidents have had along with their executive boards, but also one of the most enriching functions, is the organization of national conferences and meetings that have allowed the exchange of knowledge, new collaborations between different institutions and scientific discussions, among many others. Without a doubt it is the space that gives student members the opportunity to present their works and interact with the various authors and leaders of morphological sciences related to their bachelor’s

Table 3. List of years of publication as well as volumes for each year of the journal of Mexican Archives of Anatomy.

Year of publication	Volume No.	Number of magazines
1960	1	4
1961	2	4
1963	3	4
1963-1964	4	4
1964	5	3
1965	6	3
1966	7	3
1967	7	3
1968	8	2
1969	9	2
1970	10	1
1970	11	2
1971	12	1
1972	13	2
1973	14	1
1978	15	2
1979	16	1
1980	17	1
1981	18	1
1982	19	1
1983	20	1
1984	21	1
1985	22	1
1986	23	1
1987	24	1
1988	25	1
1990	26	1
2003	27	1
2007	28	1
2008	29	1

degrees. It is a high motivation to sow in them a passion for morphological sciences and academy.

It is very important to mention that for several years the SMA has had exponential growth, especially concerning attendance at congresses and meetings, which by statutes have continued to be

called “national”, but which should actually be called “international”, since in recent years there has been an average participation of 10 countries, in addition to being held in conjunction with the Pan-American and global congresses. (see Table 4).

Table 4. SMA Congresses and Meetings through 2020.

Biennium	President	National Meeting	National Congress	Other
1960	Enrique Acosta Vidrio			I International Congress of Anatomy
1961			I: D.F.	
1963	Mario García Ramos		II: San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí	
1966	Fernando Quiroz Pavía		III: D.F.	I Pan American Congress of Anatomy
1968	Salvador de Lara Galindo		IV: Toluca, Estado de México.	
1971	Salvador Gómez Alvarez		V: D.F.	
1974	Gildardo Espinosa de Luna		VI: Morelia, Michoacán.	
1975	Alicia Alvarez Ramirez	I: Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas.		
1976			VII: Veracruz, Veracruz	
1977	Luís Cárdenas Ramírez	II: Monterrey, Nuevo León.		
1978			VIII: Chapala, Jalisco.	Extraordinary National Meeting of Morphology
1979	Manuel Granados Navarrete	III: Querétaro, Querétaro		
1980				XI International Congress of Anatomy
1981	Carlos Gilbert Rodriguez	IV: Tijuana, Baja California.		
1982			IX: Matamoros, Tamaulipas.	
1983	Joaquín Reyes-Téllez G.	V: Puebla, Puebla.		
1984			X: Zacatecas, Zacatecas.	
1985	Felipe Zaragoza Flores	VI: Cuernavaca, Morelos.		
1986			XI: Merida, Yucatan.	
1987	Cassandra Núñez Tovar	VII: Toluca, Estado de México.		
1988			XII: Jalapa, Veracruz.	
1989	Ismael Herrera Vazquez	VIII: Oaxaca, Oaxaca.		
1990			XIII: Villa Hermosa, Tabasco.	
1991	Natalio González Rosales	IX: Morelia, Michoacán.		
1992			XIV: Pachuca, Hidalgo.	
1993	Alfredo Eugenio Millán Dena	X: Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala.		
1994			XV: Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes	

Biennium	President	National Meeting	National Congress	Other
1995	Luis Delgado Reyes	XI: Metepec		
1996			XVI: Oaxaca, Oaxaca.	
1997	Armando Pérez Torres	XII: Queretaro, Querétaro.		
1998			XVII: León, Guanajuato.	
1999	Andrés Castell Rodríguez	XIII: Acapulco, Guerrero.		
2000			XVIII: Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero.	
2001	Enrique Canchola Martínez	XIV: Veracruz, Veracruz		
2002			XIX: Colima, Colima.	
2003	Patricia Herrera Saint-Leu	XV: Monterrey, Nuevo León.		
2004			XX: Guadalajara, Jalisco.	
2005	Virgilio W. Escalante Silva	XVI: Zacatecas, Zacatecas.		
2006			XXI: San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí.	
2007	Manuel Arteaga Martínez	XVII: Tuxtla Gutiérrez Chiapas.		
2008			XXII: Matamoros, Tamaulipas.	
2009	Manuel Angeles Castellanos	XVIII: Oaxaca, Oaxaca.		
2010			XXIII: Irapuato	
2011	Miguel A. Herrera Enríquez	XIX: Puebla, Puebla.		
2012			XXIV: Zacatecas, Zacatecas.	
2013	Ma. Isabel García Peláez	XX: Huatulco, Oaxaca		XVIII Pan American Congress of Anatomy
2014			XXV: Durango, Durango.	1st National Meeting of Neuromorphology
2015	William H. Ortiz Briceño	XXI: Campeche, Campeche.		
2016			XXVI: León, Guanajuato.	
2017	Antonio Soto Paulino	XXII: Acapulco, Guerrero.		
2018			XXVII: Monterrey, Nuevo León.	
2019	Rodrigo Elizondo Omaña	XXIII: Chihuahua, Chihuahua.		IV Unesco World Congress of Digital Anatomy
2020			XXVIII: (1 st virtual congress)	

RECOGNITIONS GRANTED

Andreas Vesalio Award

This award is the highest award given by the SMA in each of its National Congresses or Meetings. It has the purpose, as indicated by the statutes of our

society, to “publicly and in a special way signify the recognition and gratitude to the Professor or Institution who, in the teaching of Morphology in our national environment, marks an age greater than twenty-five years or that for its contribution, research and dedication to these disciplines, is a

creditor to this award". It was first awarded to Dr Fernando Quiroz Gutiérrez in September 1961 as part of the First National Congress of Anatomy.

This award consists of awarding a medal with the engraved image of Andreas Vesalius and has been granted to the morphologists listed in Table 5.

Table 5. Recipients of the Andreas Vesalio Award.

Recipients of the Andreas Vesalio Award
1961: First National Congress of Anatomy to Fernando Quiroz Gutierrez
1963: II National Congress of Anatomy to Luis Martínez Ballesteros
1974: VI National Congress of Anatomy to Samuel Reyna Miranda
2007: XVII National Meeting of Morphology to the Morphological Sciences Department of the School of Medicine "Dr. Manuel Velasco Suárez" of the Autonomous University of Chiapas
2008: XXII National Congress of Anatomy to the Academic Department of Health Sciences and Technology of the Autonomous University of Tamaulipas
2009: XVIII National Meeting of Morphology to Biological Material Conservation Workshop of the School of Medicine and Surgery of the Autonomous University "Benito Juárez" of Oaxaca
2010: XXIII National Congress of Anatomy, (School of Medicine of Quetzalcoatl University of Irapuato)
2011: IX National Meeting of Morphology (School of Medicine of the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla)
2012: XXIV National Congress of Anatomy (Alvaro Díaz Zarate)
2013: X National Meeting of Morphology (UNAM School of Medicine)
2014: XXV National Congress of Anatomy (Santiago Aja Guardiola)
2015: XI National Meeting of Morphology (Manuel Granados and Navarrete)
2016: XXVI National Congress of Anatomy (School of Medicine of the University of Guanajuato Campus León)
2017: XII National Meeting of Morphology (School of Medicine of the Autonomous University of Guerrero)
2018: XXVII National Congress of Anatomy (Manuel Arteaga Martínez)
2019: XXVIII National Meeting of Morphology (Noel del Val Ochoa)
2020: XXVII Virtual National Congress of Anatomy (Not granted)

Dedication of the academic year

With the beginning of the new century, the acting board of directors of the society proposed and its members accepted to award a new distinction "Dedication of the Academic Year". With this distinction the Society intends to give a well-deserved recognition and gratitude for the morphologist, or institution that, in Mexico, has distinguished itself by its contributions in teaching, research and dedication in the different morphological disciplines.

This distinction was first awarded in 2003 and has since been awarded each year, with some particular exceptions, being as follows (Sociedad Mexicana de Anatomía, 1960-2):

- Year 2003 - (Dr. Manuel Granados Navarrete)
- Year 2004 - (Dr. Alicia Álvarez Ramírez)
- Year 2005 - (Dr. Gregorio Benítez Padilla)
- Year 2006 - (Dr. Gildardo Espinosa de Luna)
- Year 2007- on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our society, this year was designated as the Year of the Fiftieth Anniversary, intended to recognize in this way each and every member morphologist who have contributed to achieve what is now the Mexican Society of Anatomy.
- Year 2008 - (Dr. Luis López Antúnez)
- Year 2009 - (Dr. Carlos Gilbert Rodríguez)
- Year 2010 - (Dr. Amelia Sámano Bishop)
- Year 2011 - (Dr. Enrique Acosta Vidrio)
- Year 2012 - (Dr. Carlos Serrano Sánchez)
- Year 2013 - (XLVII Anniversary of the Pan American Association of Anatomy)
- Year 2014 - (María Elena Castillo Romero)
- Year 2015 - (Horacio Oliva Abarca)
- Year 2016 - (Salvador de Lara Galindo)
- Year 2017 - (Carlos Jesús Guzmán Cuervo)
- Year 2018 - (Dr. Santiago Aja Guardiola)
- Year 2019 - (Natalio González Rosales)
- Year 2020 – Not awarded due to the pandemic

CONCLUSIONS

For more than 60 years, the Mexican Society of Anatomy has been composed of leading national and international morphologists dedicated to the teaching and research of health and related sciences. Its common objective is to promote the updating of anatomy, neuroanatomy, histology and embryology, to encourage teachers and students to love these disciplines and thus integrate the new generations into national and international collaborative work, introducing them immediately to research and teaching. The history of our society has made it clear to us that the sum of efforts leads us to better professional and personal development. This is how we must have academic programs common to the needs of our time and services that offer the necessary means and tools for the transfer of information from our daily work, and thus bring together more members who have the same objective of disseminating the morphological sciences.

Finally, our vision in the future as part of the board of directors and members of the Mexican Society of Anatomy is to resume the edition of the journal *Mexican Archives of Anatomy*, and to be the official organ of the *European Journal of Anatomy*, allowing our members to publish in an indexed journal specialized in morphological sciences with the aim of giving opportunity to strengthen our own journal. This will strengthen ties with European, American and Latin American societies, giving us greater international projection.

During these months, the incorporation of our society into the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) will be formalized and we will promote the linkage with the Mexican Association of Faculties and Schools of Medicine (AMFEM) and the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE), seeking to be a consulting body to generate criteria or basic axes for the academic approval of programs studying morphological disciplines in the Schools and Faculties of Health Sciences in Mexico—this was one of the first objectives of our society since its foundation.

Given the high participation of international attendees that have registered in recent years in

our congresses and meetings, originating in more than 10 countries, we consider it relevant to promote the discussion of changes in the statutes so that our congresses and meetings take character and are called “International”.

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