

Description of Candidate for TWAS Science Diplomacy Award 2022

Nísia Trindade Lima

Nísia Trindade Lima holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and a master's degree in Political Science. She is one of the leading Brazilian scientists in the field of social sciences and her academic contribution has focused on the fields of ideals in public health, science and society, public policy and social inequalities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the leadership in institutional actions to face the health crisis, she has also highlighted the importance of redirecting the research and development to promote equity in access to health goods and services. She is a member of international networks of professionals and specialists in global health and participates in various relevant international cooperation efforts, such as the UN Research Roadmap for COVID-19 Recovery, the Board of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition.

She has a vast bibliographic production, authoring books and articles emphasizing Brazilian social thinking, the history of ideas in public health, and the Brazilian processes of construction of the National State. She has been the President of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – FIOCRUZ since 2017 and is the first woman to occupy this position in its 120 years of history. Linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Health, Fiocruz is the largest Public Health Academic Institution in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

She has been a senior researcher at *Casa de Oswaldo Cruz (COC)* since 1987, having been part of the first generation of researchers recruited to implement the area of history of sciences and health at Fiocruz; which is considered an innovation in the centenary biomedical and public health research institution.

Lima also works as a professor and has taught and advised generations of students at all levels of education: primary education, high school, scientific initiation, master's, doctorate, and post-doctorate. Her professional performance is guided by the promotion of the social value of science in Brazil and elsewhere. Her interest in sharing knowledge and finding a diplomatic way to promote collaboration in the field of social sciences brought her to organize different public science communication initiatives, such as the creation of the Virtual Library of Social Thought (<https://blogbvps.wordpress.com/a-biblioteca/>). In the first months of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Virtual Library served as a forum for essential debates and analysis of social

scientists regarding the crisis. This digital platform gathers data from publications and scientific dissemination activities, generating educational resources such as entries and videos.

At Fiocruz, Lima held different management positions, marking the implementation of new sectors to expand and diversify institutional activities. She was director of the COC from 1998 to 2005. During that period, she participated in the project Museum of Life, awarded 1st place in a national competition for the installation of science museums. During her mandate at COC, the Museum was inaugurated, and additional scientific dissemination projects were created, such as *Ciência Móvel* (Mobile Science) and *Caminhão da Ciência* (Science Truck), which reach together around 180 thousand people per year across Brazil.

Lima also coordinated the Brazilian Health and Environment Olympics (2003-2005), a biennial educational project to encourage the development of interdisciplinary environmental sustainability activities in public and private schools across the country. She also signed a partnership with the Ministry of Culture to increase policies to preserve the cultural heritage of health.

In 2006, she became the scientific editor of Editora Fiocruz and coordinated cooperation work to implement the SciELO Books Network, an open access network for books, available online since 2012 (<http://books.scielo.org/>). The collection is the result of a consortium formed by Editora Fiocruz, Editora Unesp, and EDUFBA, and its technological platform had the technical support of BIREME/PAHO/WHO. SciELO books has 1,434 titles available, 883 titles in open access, 11,915 chapters in open access, and 103,905,912 downloads.

Between 2011 and 2016, Lima was the Vice President of Education, Information, and Communication of Fiocruz. During this period, she coordinated the National Science and Technology Weeks at the institution and several initiatives to promote science education and public communication. In her mandate, the institution implemented the ARCA institutional repository to make available all the scientific production of Fiocruz, in tune with the International Movement for Open Access to Knowledge. The institutional policy implemented by Lima at Fiocruz also includes the Support Program for Virtual Health Libraries, the Forum of Scientific Editors, and the Fiocruz Periódicos Portal, initiatives for the generation and dissemination of strategic information and support for research. The virtual library was an essential building block for Fiocruz's science diplomacy efforts and was a crucial element during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

As Vice-President, she organized the Zika and Social Sciences Network to contribute to facing the health emergency declared in the country in November 2015 due to the association between

the epidemic of Zika and microcephaly cases. The Network is an integrated research program with an intense mobilization of researchers in transdisciplinary lines of research and was contemplated in the ZikAlliance public call for research funding from the European Union.

Besides being the first woman, Lima is also the first social scientist to occupy the top position of Fiocruz. She was elected in 2017 as President of Fiocruz and re-elected in 2020 with a commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, as well as to strengthen science, technology and innovation (STI) programs at the institution and expand its role in the global science and health arena. In all these years, she has had a remarkable performance, alongside public universities, the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science-SBPC, and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences-ABC, in defense of STI in the country.

Another mark of Lima's trajectory is the interdisciplinary work in international cooperation agreements. She organized Fiocruz's centenary celebrations and the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Brazil at the institution (2000). Between 2004-2005, she coordinated at Fiocruz the Year of Brazil in France in collaboration with institutions such as EHESS, the Pasteur Institute, Inserm, and CNRS. In 2005, she became a member of the scientific and executive committees of the 4th Science Center World Congress - 4SCWC, hosted by the Museum of Life and Fiocruz. In 2009 she joined the organizing committee of the Centennial Celebration of the discovery of the Chagas disease. As President of Fiocruz, she participated in the proposal made by Brazil to WHO in 2019 to declare April 14 as World Chagas Disease Day, one of the main neglected diseases in the world.

Lima is a member of several WHO working groups to optimize global research and innovation in countries health systems. She is a member of the Zika Alliance Network (2018), a multinational and multidisciplinary research consortium formed by 54 partners worldwide. She participated in the accelerator five working group of the WHO Global Action Plan (2018), which aims to optimize global research for countries' health systems. Also, she participated in the WHO accelerator seven advisory groups to implement the SDG3 of the 2030 Agenda (2019). She was a member of the International Steering Committee to oversee and facilitate the implementation of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 (2019), and in 2021 she became a member of the Steering Committee for the Gender Summit.

Also, on sustainable development, she established FIOCRUZ's Strategy on 2030 Agenda, which incorporates the United Nations initiative into the institution's strategic development and

work program. She also participated in and supported the FIOCRUZ activities contributing to the ECOSOC - High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development on different themes. Lima is an editorial board member of renowned national and international scientific journals, such as Medical History. She is a top-level productivity researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), with additional acknowledgments of her scientific production and actions to improve the dialogue between science and society.

She was at the forefront of the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic from its early stages. In the Covid-19 Pandemic, the mark of Lima's mandates were reinforced at Fiocruz, which are the intersectoral integration and the articulation between social sciences, biomedical sciences, and international cooperation for better responses to society. As part of the national response to the Pandemic, Fiocruz built a new Hospital for Covid-19; coordinated the WHO Solidarity clinical trial in Brazil; increased the national capacity to produce diagnostic kits and process test results; organized emergency and support actions with vulnerable populations; offered virtual courses for SUS professionals in clinical management and hospital care for Covid-19 patients; launched manuals for biosafety in schools; and became a WHO reference laboratory in Covid-19 in the Americas. In February 2020, Fiocruz provided training on laboratory diagnosis of the new coronavirus for specialists from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

Fiocruz Covid-19 Observatory is another transdisciplinary network of researchers created by Lima to conduct research, systematize epidemiological data, monitor, and disseminate information to support public policies, and analyze the social impacts in different regions of Brazil. Another highlight was the inauguration of the COVID-19 Biobank (BC19-FIOCRUZ) in December 2021. The Biobank will be a legacy for Brazil, assisting researchers in the search for rapid responses to future public health emergencies. Another significant action was the creation of the FIOCRUZ Genomic Surveillance Network, where experts from various FIOCRUZ units and partner institutes work daily to generate consistent data on the behavior of SARS-CoV-2, thereby collaborating with the epidemiological and vaccine efficacy analyses and boosting Brazil's preparedness for tackling the Pandemic.

One of the most notable successes of Lima in science diplomacy was the coordination of the negotiations between the Ministry of Health of Brazil, Oxford University, the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and the local manufacturing units that led to the agreement to produce

the vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and concurrently to incorporate the technology to make Brazil autonomous and self-sufficient in supplying COVID-19 vaccines.

Fiocruz has already supplied the Ministry of Health with over 180 million vaccine doses. With the conclusion of the technology transfer from AstraZeneca, Fiocruz became the first institution in Brazil to produce and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine to the Ministry of Health with 100% domestic production.

Besides that, in September 2021, the Foundation was selected by PAHO/WHO as a hub for mRNA vaccines. The Institute of Technology in Immunobiology (Bio-Manguinhos) became one of the two hubs for developing and producing vaccines with mRNA technology in Latin America.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Lima also joined several forums for transnational cooperation to face the health emergency. She was a member of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission Task Force on Humanitarian Relief, Social Protection, and Vulnerable Groups, and of the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition, to accelerate COVID-19 clinical research in resource-limited settings. She co-chaired the Economic Recovery Steering Group, one of the groups of the UN Research Roadmap for COVID-19 Recovery. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Distributed Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative (DVMC) and the PAHO/WHO Regional Platform to Advance the Manufacturing of COVID-19 Vaccines and Other Health Technologies in the Americas. Since April 2020, she has participated in regular meetings of global health leaders with WHO, with other representatives from different countries and institutions, which aims to discuss the situation of the Pandemic in the world and the role of WHO in supporting the actions of member countries.

In December 2020, she was elected a full member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC) in the Social Sciences category. On January 1, 2022, she became a fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) for the advancement of science in developing countries.

In September of 2021, she became an independent member of the Board of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

She was awarded the degree of Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honor of France, offered by the Government of France, in recognition of her work in the fields of science and health and for the services rendered to society in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

She was also awarded the following Medals of Merit: Oswaldo Cruz from the Ministry of Health (2018); Brazilian Academy of Military Medicine (2018); Brazilian Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (2018); Rui Barbosa (2016); Euclides da Cunha (2008); 110 years of the Brazilian Academy of Letters (2007); and Fiocruz Centenary (2000); Doctor Honoris Causa by UFRJ; Carioca of the Year by Veja Magazine (2020); France-Brazil Personality Award; Professional Personality Award; II EMERJ Human Rights Award; Tiradentes Medal (2021); and Celso Furtado Commendation (2022).