

OUR TASK: TO LAY BRIDGES BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND HUMANS

Research is today part of the natural ways and means of the Universidad del Rosario, but it has been one of our firm assets for a very long time. This institution has participated assiduously in many research projects, among which the Botanical Expedition is perhaps the most vivid in the memory of Colombians. Scientific research is manifested by its outcomes, and making sure these are visible is an ongoing challenge in today's society. The strategies developed to achieve such outreach include, among others, seminars, forums, debates, and symposia, but we also rely on television, radio, print media, and social networks, all of which have become great allies. Other channels open to us include getting across information through the publication of books and articles in specialized journals and widely-circulated magazines.

Just recently, some colleagues and I were discussing the importance of publicizing, disseminating, and sharing the fruits of research carried out at universities. We led off from Professor Savo Heleta's challenging proposals, in particular the importance of academics entering into dialogue with the world, thus breaking with the tradition of exchanging ideas exclusively among peers. Universities are far more than spaces cloistered from society; they are a dynamic and active part of it, so dialogue must take place. Our task is to lay down bridges between knowledge and human beings.

It is the explicit goal of this publication is to get research carried out by the Universidad del Rosario in Bogotá, Colombia to a large number of readers, showing them, through science journalism, the daily investigative work carried out at this institution. And we want the world to see it in the spirit of the ultimate meaning of the practice of research, just as it was expressed two centuries ago by one of our most illustrious sons, Francisco José de Caldas, who underlined that it is "all for the well-being of humankind." ■

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