

# **Nuclear Structure Physics in Colombia, from the biggest question on nuclear physics to its applications for the benefit of the society**

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After more than 100 years of the discovery of the basic structure of atomic nuclei, the big question about the nature of the force that binds together protons and neutrons to form stable and radioactive nuclei remains open. The contribution of Colombian groups to the understanding of the nature of the nuclear force has not only provided us with some interesting results in areas such as nuclear deformation, nucleonic currents inside the nucleus and production of heavy ions; but also is starting to make a positive impact in applied fields. During more than two decades, the consolidation of research programs in Colombian Universities has allowed the participation of the groups in international collaborations, and the creation of an active net that has contributed not only with the advance of knowledge, but also with the creation of technical solutions in fields such as medical physics and humanitarian demining. In this talk, an overview of last two decades of history of nuclear structure physics developed in Colombia will be presented. Some future perspectives of the nuclear structure field and its possible contributions for the advance of our knowledge and the integration of part of it into the Colombian and Latin American society will be also shown.