

**About**  
**WALTER FERNÁNDEZ**

Walter Fernández is President of the Board of Directors of the National Research Council (CONICIT), Professor and Director of the School of Physics and Researcher of the Centre for Geophysical Research and the Center for Space Research of the University of Costa Rica. He is also member of the Scientific Council of the Latin American Center of Physics (CLAF), with headquarters in Rio Janeiro, Brazil.

He graduated in Physics and Meteorology from the University of Costa Rica, obtained the M.Sc. degree in Meteorology from Saint Louis University, U.S.A., and got the Ph.D. degree in Physics (Atmospheric Physics) from the University of London (Imperial College), United Kingdom.

Professor Fernández was President of the National Academy of Sciences, Costa Rica, member and President of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), President of the Committee of Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), member of the Advisory Council of Science and Technology of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Costa Rica, and President of the Costa Rican Physical Society (Colegio de Físicos).

He is member of the American Physical Society, American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, Royal Meteorological Society, The Planetary Society, Latin American Association of Space Geophysics, Costa Rican Physical Society (Colegio de Físicos), Costa Rican Association of History and Philosophy of Science, and Costa Rican Association for the Promotion of Science. He is also member of the Commission of Atmospheric Sciences of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Professor Fernández is author or coauthor of more than 60 scientific research papers, and of about 40 papers dealing with divulgation of science, science education, and culture. His main fields of research are the physical and chemical processes which occur in the atmospheres of Earth and other planets, with emphasis on the structure and dynamics of clouds and storms, applications of meteorological satellites, climatic variability and global change, and planetary atmospheres.

He has been referee of several international scientific journals and has participated in the organization of many international scientific activities.