**Actualization and perspectives of Bachelor degree in Biochemistry from
Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV)**

Juliana Lopes Rangel Fietto¹

¹ Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil. e-mail: jufietto@ufv.br

The Bachelor Degree in Biochemistry of the UFV was created in 2001 by the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department as a groundbreaking initiative at Brazil. The program was an attempt to assume both academic and biotechnology sectors, preparing capable professionals for the development of new products and biochemical process. Our initial challenge came with the ingress of the first classes bringing doubts related to their formation and action profiles, sometimes confused with clinical analysts or pharmacists. Lecture series with professionals was used to demonstrate the present scenario with a growing market share, instigating discussions about the pedagogic project. The second challenge was the student's pressure to recognition of under graduation program by the Brazilian Education Ministry (MEC) and the biochemical professional recognition by one Regional Council. The bachelor degree was recognized by the MEC in 2004 and the Regional Council of Chemistry became our major partner. The success of the initiative of the UFV has been giving good results such as the participation in the formation process of the Bachelor Degree in Biochemistry of the Federal University of São João Del Rei (UFSJ) and stimulated the creation of another biochemistry course at State University of Maringá (UEM). The success of our students in Phd programs spread in Brazil evidences the quality of Biochemistry bachelors from UFV. Now the egresses have been recognized by biochemistry and biotechnology industry. However we still face problems with impaired recognition in many federal concourses that do not recognize the Biochemist as a chemistry and biotechnology professional. With high expectative, we wait that the biochemistry bachelor degree spreads widely in the country making possible the opening of new opportunities in all ways. Supported by: Universidade Federal de Viçosa and MEC.