



**Simposio Internacional:** Evolución por cooperación. La obra de Lynn Margulis (1938-2011)

**International Symposium:** *Evolution by cooperation. The work of Lynn Margulis (1938-2011)*

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## **Cooperate to compete**

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For many years, the probability to achieve success, both in biology and in the business environment, was measured primarily by the ability to compete with other organisms and with other companies. Lynn Margulis, fighting against an established scientific consensus, worked for decades to demonstrate that cooperation of small units with common goals provided organisms with the strength to compete, survive and thrive. In the new economy, and particularly among knowledge-based companies, the ability to cooperate has proven to be one of the virtues needed to be competitive. Cooperation between small pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with larger companies is a process that seems designed according to Margulis's endosymbiotic theory. Asebio has helped strengthening this networks of cooperation that are at the foundations of many successful integrations in which small and very innovative companies merge with bigger ones without losing their capabilities. As in nature, this allows both organizations to benefit and strengthen each other with few tradeoffs. In an economic environment as ours this combination of qualities will be essential to continue to resist and adapt to the current economic situation.

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