



ELARD KOCH , MPH PhD

Professor Elard Koch is **Director of Research** at **The MELISA Institute** in Concepcion, Chile. He is a **molecular epidemiologist and Doctor of Biomedical Sciences** from the University of Chile receiving his Master's Degree of Public Health, and PhD from the University of Chile, Faculty of Medicine, holding the position of postdoctoral researcher for the **Women Research Program at the University of North Carolina**.

Professor Koch developed a prolific career as a researcher and **professor of clinical epidemiology** at the **Faculty of Medicine of the University of Chile** for more than 15 years, receiving **the medal for academic excellence in research**.

With **numerous publications in prestigious biomedical scientific journals**, several of his scientific works have been distinguished, receiving the **Prize of the Medical Society of Chile**, The Prize of the **Chilean Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery** and the **Henri Nestlé Prize** among several others.

In **2012**, together with a group of academics from several universities, he founded **The MELISA Institute, and advanced biomedical research center** that has quickly gained international prestige for the quality and rigor of its research. In recent years, he has published a dozen studies on the factors that impact **maternal health** in Latin America. Two natural population experiments stand out, evaluating the factors that reduce maternal mortality in Chile and Mexico. The results showed that **public policies that simultaneously seek the protection of mother and the child in her womb**, achieve a strong **positive impact on maternal and perinatal health**, hence reducing maternal mortality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Escribano', with a small dot at the end.

Arantxa Escribano

Public Information Officer
aescribano@melisainstitute.org