

Chronic Disease Prevention & Control in the Americas



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Learning from the Past, Moving towards a Better Future

Cancer

Highlights for 2008

1. The **Regional Stakeholders Meeting** in May, 2008, united over 160 participants from 24 countries representing Ministry of Health programs on immunization, adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health, and cancer as well as representatives from industry, academia, and nongovernmental organizations.
2. **Current evidence regarding HPV vaccines and new technologies** for cervical cancer screening



were reviewed, and a **declaration** was adopted for increasing political and technical support to this public health issue.

3. The **Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Regional Strategy and Resolution CD48.Rio** were endorsed by the PAHO Directing Council, which helped raise the profile and charted a clear course of action for PAHO, Member States and Partners.



4. The **TATI demonstration project in Peru**, testing alternative screening and treatment methods, was concluding following eight years of implementation. The project results indicated that *visual inspection screening, followed by cryotherapy treatment, is a cost-effective method for cervical cancer prevention in low resource settings.* The project results contributed to the evidence base for global policy recommendations.



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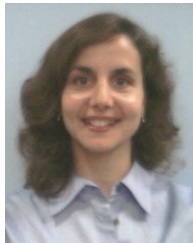
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5. **Cancer Prevention and Control Action Plan & Latin American & Caribbean (LAC) Alliance:** Cancer control leaders, researchers, health professionals, and program managers from 19 countries and 10 partner organizations gathered together in Washington, DC, in June 2008 to prepare a cancer plan of action. A set of objectives were defined to enhance PAHO's cancer control efforts and coordinate approaches with partners already working in the Region. It was also agreed that the Latin American and Caribbean Alliance for Cancer Control, which was initiated during the November 2007 *International Cancer Congress*, would be utilized as a forum for the implementation of the cancer action plan.

6. **Central America & Dominican Republic Cancer Plan:** As follow up to the 2007 RESSCAD agreement, and in collaboration with cancer program managers in Central America and the Dominican Republic, PAHO developed a detailed plan of action to strengthen cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care in the subregion. The subregional cancer plan was presented for endorsement of the 2009 RESSCAD.

Cancer: Priorities for 2009

1. **Implement the seven-point Plan of Action** defined in the *Cervical Cancer Regional Strategy*, ensuring the necessary human and financial resources;
2. **Operationalize the LAC Cancer Alliance** and begin implementation of the cancer prevention and control action plan;
3. **Implement the Central America subregional cancer plan.**



Silvana Luciani, MHS, Newsletter Team

**Happiness and a long, active,
and healthy life!**

Regional Action

Experts Say Lowering Salt Consumption Should Be a Top Public Health Priority

A group of international nutrition and health experts convened this past month by PAHO says that cutting the amount of salt in people's diets could save thousands of lives and improve the health of millions in the Western Hemisphere and around the world.



"With a reduction of up to one-half in daily salt consumption—something that is perfectly feasible—we estimate about 30 million people in the Americas could avoid hypertension and also reduce medical costs, heart attacks, and strokes," said James Hospedales, PAHO senior advisor on disease prevention and control.

Hospedales and other experts met in Miami earlier this month to develop a set of recommendations on reducing salt consumption in the Americas. The meeting was sponsored by PAHO and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Both Canada and the United States have recently established national commissions or task forces to take action to reduce dietary salt.

Salt is an essential nutrient, but people need it only in small quantities. Consumption of more than 5 to 6 grams of salt per day increases blood pressure and with it the risk of heart attacks and stroke. PAHO/WHO estimates that high blood pressure leads to some 7 million premature deaths each year worldwide.

The problem is not just salt added by consumers. "The biggest challenge is the invisible salt that comes in processed foods and meats, which consumers have little control over," says Enrique Jacoby, PAHO regional advisor on healthy eating and healthy living. "Nearly two-thirds of consumed salt is in this form. Specifically, we're talking about bread, prepared foods, fresh meats, and even breakfast cereals, among other things,

which have a lot of salt added to make them taste better.”

WHO has called on all the countries of the world to reduce salt consumption to no more than 5 grams per day per person. In many countries of the Americas, salt consumption is three times that recommended level. Jacoby cites several examples: in Brazil and Ecuador, average daily consumption is 10 grams per person; in Argentina, it is 12.5 grams; and in Guatemala, 19 grams.



The experts meeting in Miami on 13–14 January said that reducing salt consumption at the population level would be one of the most cost-effective public health interventions available. Yet high-level decision-makers and the public in general have not given this issue the attention it deserves, they said.

Participants also discussed the role of salt as a vehicle for providing iodine and fluoride, a common practice in the Americas that would have to be reviewed as part of efforts to reduce dietary salt.

“Much remains to be done in this area,” said Hospedales following the Miami meeting. “But I am favorably impressed with the evidence and the interest in working together, and in the possibility of achieving our goals through joint efforts by governments, industry and civil society.”

Participants in the meeting acknowledged that changing the behavior and habits of tens of millions of consumers is a major challenge, especially given the rapid growth in availability and consumption of processed foods, as opposed to fresh “natural” foods. They said to achieve such changes, public health experts need to work with governments and the food industry in areas such as public education, food labeling, health warnings, and the reduction or elimination of unhealthy ingredients such as trans fatty acids from industrially produced foods.

The Miami meeting is part of ongoing efforts by PAHO to promote healthy eating and active lifestyles to combat the growing epidemics of obesity and chronic diseases in its member countries. To advance these efforts, PAHO is working with other public and private individuals and organizations in the design and implementation of public health information and awareness campaigns at the national, subregional, and hemispheric levels.

Source: PAHO press release.

Progress in the Countries



Healthy Caribbean: Bridgetown Declaration

Members of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) met at the special civil society conference, **Healthy Caribbean 2008—A Wellness Revolution Conference**, on 16–18 October 2008 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The objective was to harness the strong record of third-sector organizations and their traditional linkages with the community, with the goal of providing services and public education to bring about behavioral change. The meeting resulted in the [Caribbean Civil Society Bridgetown Declaration: Tackling the Caribbean Epidemic of Chronic Diseases](#).

In summary, the declaration recognizes that CNCDs are epidemic in the Caribbean and are the major cause of ill health, suffering, and premature death, presenting both a financial and personal burden. It recognizes the need for urgent, comprehensive intervention as well as for prevention of common but increasing risk factors—not to mention screening and treatment—which to date have been inadequate. Good health, it states, needs to be both affordable and viable.

The declaration also recognizes that—based on scientific evidence—CNCDs are preventable and can even be reversed in an environment that supports healthy lifestyles based on exercise, proper diet, and weight control, reduced alcohol consumption, smoking cessation, and smoke-free environments. Healthy environments include work, school, church, home, and community. The latter has at its disposal advocacy groups, coalitions, service delivery programs, and resources that can all be applied to fighting the epidemic

Participants declared their commitment to contribute actively, at all levels, to avoid, delay and reverse further development of CNCDs, with the following key points:

- ➔ Advocate for policies and strategic targeted programs to prevent and control CNCDs and their risk factors, mindful of gender and age considerations.
- ➔ Strengthen screening, early diagnosis, counseling, treatment, and care.
- ➔ Promote physical activity, healthier diets, and reduced alcohol consumption.
- ➔ Promote Caribbean-wide public education and media campaigns.
- ➔ Establish a Caribbean Civil Society Coalition.
- ➔ Advocate for and actively participate in intersectoral partnerships.
- ➔ Fully support the [Declaration of Port-of-Spain](#).
- ➔ Implement the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ([FCTC](#)).

Source: [Trevor Hassell](#), Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados ([HSF-Barbados](#)).



Announcements

Translation of WHO STEPS Stroke Surveillance Manual

Stroke is the second leading cause of death in the world and one of the top ten causes of death and disability in the Americas. The World Health Organization has developed an international stroke surveillance system: *the STEPwise Method to Stroke Surveillance (or STEPS Stroke)*, which forms a framework for standardized surveillance and data collection and analysis. PAHO, as the Regional Office for the Americas, wants to contribute to the adaptation of *STEPS Stroke* in the Region as a useful tool to improve data collection, prevention, and treatment for stroke, which is why PAHO had the manual translated into [Spanish](#), and [Portuguese](#) to complement the original [English](#) version produced by WHO.



For more information on STEPS Stroke, see the [PowerPoint presentation](#).

For the STEPwise method for risk-factor surveillance of chronic noncommunicable diseases (CNCDs), see [PanAm Steps](#).



New WHO Website on Marketing Food and Beverages to Children

In response to World Health Assembly Resolution [WHA60.23](#) "[Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, Implementation of the Global Strategy](#)," WHO has launched a new website that chronicles and supports efforts to promote responsible marketing of food and beverages to children. The site features



a flowchart on the process for developing expert recommendations in this area and includes information on a May 2006 forum and technical meeting in Oslo, Norway, devoted to the subject. The site offers downloadable documents including the [final report](#) on the forum and technical meeting, and two background documents: [The Extent, Nature and Effects of Food Promotion to Children: A Review of the Evidence](#); and [Marketing Food to Children: Changes in the Global Regulatory Environment, 2004-2006](#).

The 60th World Health Assembly called for “the development of a set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, in order to reduce the impact of foods high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, free sugars, or salt, in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders....” By early 2009, the WHO Secretariat is expected to develop draft recommendations, which will be presented for discussion and dialogue among representative organizations and Member States, nongovernmental organizations, and private parties. Based on this process, final recommendations are expected to be submitted to the 2010 WHO Executive Board and the 63rd World Health Assembly.



that violence is preventable and that alcohol is part of the problem.



In June 2008, the project sponsored a meeting of stakeholders in evidence-based violence prevention at the Fetzer Institute. A policy brief [Using Science to Prevent Violence](#) resulted from this meeting. Supplementary materials include four case studies part of a series called *Violence Prevention: The Investment that Saves Lives*.

One case study from Brazil examines specifically the success of **adopting a law prohibiting the sale of alcohol after 11:00 PM** in the city of Diadema. The measure reduced homicides by 44% over a three-year period. Furthermore, assaults against women fell 56% during the same time period, with 30% fewer police calls related to attacks against women.

Alcohol by itself is one of the leading risk factors for the burden of disease in the Americas: in 2002 alone, it was **responsible for more than 323,000 deaths and more than 14 million years of healthy life lost to premature death and disability**. Such impact by itself calls for improving public policies to curtail its heavy consumption; but the results of the study about its relation to increased domestic violence strengthens the case for adopting effective measures in this regard.

Source: PAHEF, Director's newsletter [1/2009](#) (8 January).

PAHEF Project Provides Evidence That Alcohol Control Reduces Violence against Women

As part of the PAHO celebrations of the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** (4 December 2008), the Pan American Health and Education Foundation ([PAHEF](#)) shared the impact of the Foundation's [Global Violence Prevention Project](#). The project has advanced awareness within the global health community



Did you know?

Global School Health Survey



A special area of risk-factor (RF) surveillance is related to youth. The **Global School Health Survey (GSHS)**, student-based, is part of a global surveillance system designed to provide accurate data to periodically monitor the prevalence of important health risk behaviors and protective factors among students 13–15 years of age. The GSHS is relatively low-cost and uses a self-administered questionnaire to obtain data from a representative sample of students. Countries

<http://www.paho.org/english/ad/dpc/nc/cronic.htm>

implementing the GSHS receive technical assistance from [WHO](#) in collaboration with the [CDC](#).

Countries can add questions to the “core” GSHS questionnaire.



The **key topics** addressed by the survey are:

- ➔ Alcohol and other drug use
- ➔ Dietary behaviors
- ➔ Hygiene
- ➔ Mental health
- ➔ Physical activity
- ➔ Protective factors
- ➔ Respondent demographics
- ➔ Sexual behaviors that contribute to HIV infection, other STIs, and unintended pregnancy
- ➔ Tobacco use
- ➔ Violence and unintentional injury

For more information—the GSHS implementation map, country-specific GSHS questionnaires, and other related documentation—see the [GSHS](#) website.

Source: Dr. [Alfonso Contreras](#), PAHO Regional Advisor on Health Behavior and Social Communication, Area for Sustainable Development and Environmental Health.



News Roundup

News Links in English

- ➔ [Hypertension: A worldwide epidemic](#), *Clinton Herald*, IA, USA: More awareness efforts are still needed to tackle this complex and worldwide medical epidemic. Anis Ansari, MD, is a board certified nephrologist at Medical ... (28 January 2009)
- ➔ [Study Will Inform Physicians How To Prevent And Treat Diabetes In ...](#), *WCSH-TV*, ME, USA: In 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended lower body mass index (BMI) cutoff points to define people of Asian descent worldwide who are ... (26 January 2009)
- ➔ [Cancer: the new challenge for health care in the developing world](#), *HemOncToday*, NJ, USA: The Pan-American Health Organization has no cancer in the agenda. The organization has some pilot programs for cervical cancers and a few others ... (26 January 2009)
- ➔ [Database Helps Assess Your Breast Cancer Risk](#), *CBC.ca*, Canada: ... each factor affects the risk of breast cancer,” he said, explaining that it's similar to a puzzle. "We need to know how all of the pieces fit together, ... (26 January 2009)
- ➔ [Why Cancer in One Breast May Affect the Other](#), *U.S. News & World Report* (HealthDay News): Researchers say they have found a way to better calculate the risk a woman with cancer in one breast has of developing tumors in the other breast ... (26 January 2009)
- ➔ [Cleaner air equals 21 more weeks of life](#), *Gene Emery, Reuters* (Boston): Dramatic improvements in US air quality over the last two decades have added 21 weeks to the life of the average American, researchers reported on Wednesday ... (22 January 2009)
- ➔ [Severity of First-Time Heart Attacks on Decline](#), *HealthNews*: While heart disease is still the leading killer in the US, first-time heart attacks are becoming less severe, with the number of heart attack sufferers actually decreasing by 30 percent over the last decade. ... (21 January 2009)
- ➔ [Obama Backs Health Care Reform](#), *Karen Pallarito, Washington Post*, (HealthDay News): President Barack Obama vowed during his campaign to expand access to health insurance and reform health care. ... (20 January 2009)
- ➔ [Rethinking the Genetic Theory of Inheritance: CAMH study reveals ...](#), *CNW Telbec* (*Communiqué de presse*): CAMH is fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, and is a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Collaborating Centre. ... (19 January 2009)
- ➔ [The US Government Flunks Tobacco Control On 2008 Report Card](#), *HealthNews*: One thousand people die every day from tobacco-related diseases. At the same time, tobacco companies are continuously seeking new methods for getting the next 1100 young people

to become daily smokers and keep those who already smoke hooked. ... (15 January 2009)

- [Diabetes Program encourages healthy eating in Hispanic community](#), *Brand Republic*, UK: It is working with organizations such as National Alliance for Hispanic Health, the American Diabetes Association, and National Council of La Raza to ... (15 January 2009)
- [Women are not the same as men](#), *Uptown*, Canada: ... used to complete the profile has since been adopted by PWHCE staff for use in South America at the request of the Pan-American Health Organization. ... (15 January 2009)
- [Diabetes Program encourages healthy eating in Hispanic community](#), *PRWeek*, NY: It is working with organizations such as National Alliance for Hispanic Health, the American Diabetes Association, and National Council of La Raza to ... (14 January 2009)
- [Walking Is Good for Blocked Leg Arteries](#), Bob Edelson, *Washington Post* (HealthDay News): Anyone looking for proof that a planned program of walking is good for people with the leg blood-vessel blockage called peripheral arterial disease (PAD) should check the results of a new US ... (13 January 2009)
- [Colombia Tries, and Fails, to Include HPV Vaccine in Public Health ...](#), *RH Reality Check*, Washington, DC: This data was revealed in a comprehensive report on the impact of the virus in the Americas, researched by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and ... (13 January 2009)
- [Fighting dementia, smoking without the smoke](#), *Globe and Mail*, Canada: "People think quitting smoking is a linear process, and it's not," said Jerome Hahn, MedSignal's executive vice president. "People smoke very differently ... (11 January 2009)
- [We All Want Longer, Healthier Lives. But It's Going to Cost Us](#), David Brown, *Washington Post* (USA): Over the next few months, this country will engage in the first serious national discussion on health care in 15 years ... (10 January 2009)
- [Coming Down on Tobacco](#), *New York Times*, USA: But the tobacco pact, which is the world's first public health treaty, would go

further to exclude industry executives from policy making ... (6 January 2009)

- [Emergency medicine in the Caribbean grapples with change](#), *Caribbean Net News*, Cayman Islands: The preventative measures implemented by the Governments with the support of the Pan American Health Organization and Caribbean Epidemiology Centre involved ... (6 January 2009)
- [The four pillars wellness](#), *Jamaica Gleaner*, Jamaica: From my experience, there are four basic concepts that underpin and support real health. I call them the 'four pillars of wellness'. These four simple but ... (4 January 2009)
- [Obesity Crisis Looms—Officials](#), *Cayman Net News*, Cayman Islands: Ms Smith said obesity starts children onto a path of health problems that were once confined to adults. The Cayman Islands with its urban setting is no ... (5 January 2009)

Vínculos a noticias en español

- [Obesos uruguayos piden "cruzada nacional" para poder adelgazar ...](#), *ABC Color*: ... Gordos Organizados del Uruguay, que reúne a unas 35.000 personas con sobrepeso, reclamó hoy una "cruzada nacional" para poder adelgazar 100.000 kilos ... (29 enero 2009)
- [Denuncian alarmante índice de ceguera](#), *La Opinión*: La OPS presentó, en coordinación con la Comisión Nacional de Prevención de la Ceguera, la Encuesta Nacional de Ciegos 2008, la cual determinó que "en ... (29 enero 2009)
- [Centroamérica y Dominicana a cónclave de salud](#), *Diario La Prensa*: ... Resscad, según informó en un comunicado la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS). La directora de la OPS, la argentina Mirta Roses, ... (26 enero 2009)
- [Expertos consensúan que la vacuna contra el papiloma humano es ...](#), *La Voz de Asturias*: Ocho sociedades científicas y la Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (AECC) han firmado hoy en Málaga el Consenso Español sobre la Vacuna del Virus del Papiloma Humano (VPH), mediante el cual han reivindicado su eficacia, por lo que la han recomendado ... (23 enero 2009)



- [Seis meses de plazo para que sitios públicos adecúen zona de fumadores](#), *El Espectador* (Colombia): Esta medida impuesta por Minprotección se debe al convenio que se adoptó con la Organización Mundial de la Salud para controlar el consumo de tabaco y así ... (22 enero 2009)
- [Disminuyen 64% casos de muerte por cáncer cervicouterino](#), *Milenio*: De acuerdo con la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), cerca de 650 mujeres en todo el mundo morirán diariamente de cáncer cervicouterino. ... (22 enero 2009)
- [Aire limpio mejora expectativas de vida](#), *ElEconomista.com.mx*: “Los cambios en el hábito de fumar son la principal causa de la mayor expectativa de vida de los estadounidenses” ... Las mejores condiciones socioeconómicas, debido en parte a la alta proporción de graduados secundarios que viven en un área, fue el siguiente factor. Pero el aire más limpio fue un elemento importante ... (22 enero 2009)
- [Exhorta especialista a combatir obesidad en menores con educación ...](#), *Milenio*: Destacó que con base en datos de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) sólo tres por ciento de la población infantil en México hace deporte y ... (21 enero 2009)
- [Falta de ejercicio, causa de obesidad infantil: IMSS](#), *El Financiero* (México): Datos de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) indican que sólo 3 por ciento de la población infantil en nuestro país hace deporte, y que 4 de cada ... (21 enero 2009)
- [Nokia presenta nuevas aplicaciones para un estilo de vida saludable](#), *Press Perú*: La Organización Panamericana de la Salud informó en su Hoja de Datos de Salud en las Américas del 2007 que tanto las enfermedades del sistema circulatorio ... (21 enero 2009)
- [Ataques cardíacos y tumores, nos matan](#), *El Herald* (Ecuador): ... países más pobres como Guatemala, que descendió del 22 al 9 por mil entre esos mismos años, según estudios de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud. ... (21 enero 2009)
- [Cuidese del cáncer](#), *La Prensa* (Honduras): Ya iniciaron las campañas de concienciación Aprenda a valorar su vida, sino no lo hace usted puede ser víctima del cáncer cervicouterino, un mal frecuente en ... (20 enero 2009)
- [OMS teme un aumento de problemas mentales y abuso de alcohol por ...](#), *AFP*: La Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) expresó el lunes su temor de que la crisis económica provoque un aumento "de la ansiedad, las enfermedades ... (20 enero 2009)
- [Alemania.- Los teléfonos móviles no aumentan el riesgo de sufrir ...](#), *elEconomista.es*, Madrid (*Reuters/EP*): Los teléfonos móviles no aumentan el riesgo de sufrir un melanoma ocular, un tipo de cáncer muy agresivo que se extiende muy rápido ... (14 enero 2009)
- [La OMS reconoce que la epilepsia es un importante problema de ...](#), *AZprensa*: La Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) reconoce que la epilepsia es un importante problema de salud pública, por ello, y junto con la Liga Internacional ... (12 enero 2009)
- [Por salud hay que moverse](#), *Prensa Libre* (Guatemala): Para desarrollar la aplicación, los científicos reunieron a mil 100 enfermos en cada país de entre 18 y 75 años en centros de salud urbanos y rurales, ... (12 enero 2009)
- [Humo de 'tercera mano', un efecto nocivo más del cigarrillo](#), *Times of the Internet*: Estudio de Harvard dice que el humo de '3ª mano' es la suma de sustancias tóxicas presentes en el fumador y su entorno. Advierten sobre el riesgo en niños Los padres que fuman suelen abrir una ventana o prender el ventilador para limpiar el aire del ... (9 enero 2009)
- [Siete efectivas actitudes](#), *Prensa Libre* (Guatemala): Éste lleva por nombre Los 7 hábitos de las personas altamente efectivas con diabetes, elaborado para ayudar a los pacientes a cumplir objetivos para el ... (8 enero 2009)
- [Crece la diabetes en America](#), *Actualidad Misiones*: En los adultos, las tasas de sobrepeso y obesidad se aproximan al 60%, destacaron en Washington expertos de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud en el ... (8 enero 2009)

STOP THE GLOBAL EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC DISEASE

PROMOTE. PREVENT. TREAT. CARE

- [Brócoli, bueno para los pulmones](#)
Radio Rebelde, Cuba: Según estimaciones de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, en el año 2030 la EPOC será la causa del 7,8% de todas las muertes en el mundo, sólo superada por ... (7 enero 2009)
- [Un test médico permite averiguar las probabilidades de padecer una depresión](#), *El Espectador* (Colombia): ... tras la enfermedad cardiovascular como causa global de invalidez en 2020, según datos de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y el Banco Mundial ... (7 enero 2009)
- [Marcador genético podría predecir recaída de niños con leucemia](#), *Prensa Latina* (Washington): Las variaciones de un gen podrían ayudar a determinar el riesgo de recaída en pacientes tratados por leucemia linfoblástica, la forma más común de cáncer de la sangre en niños, difundió hoy una revista especializada. ... (7 enero 2009)
- [Fundación FIA dona \\$1 millón para ciclo vías](#), EKA, Costa Rica: La Fundación Internacional del Automovilismo trabaja en conjunto a organismos internacionales como la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), el Banco Mundial y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas de Medio Ambiente ... (7 enero 2009)
- [Iniciativa de ley del PRI que obliga la vacuna contra cáncer ...](#), *Cambio* (Michoacán, México):



De acuerdo con datos manejados por el legislador, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) estima que el cáncer cérvico-uterino causa la muerte a siete millones de mujeres cada año y que existen más de once millones más con diagnósticos de cáncer (6 enero 2009)

- [La segunda causa de muerte](#), *El Comercio* (Ecuador): Según la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), 140 millones de personas en el continente sufren de hipertensión, la principal causa de la enfermedad. ... (4 enero 2009)
- [Sugiere la OPS cambios al reglamento de la ley antitabaco](#), *La Jornada* (México): La Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) propuso reforzar el proyecto de Reglamento de la Ley General para el Control del Tabaco, con la finalidad de ... (3 enero 2009)
- [Los perros como terapia contra el Alzheimer](#), *Levante*: Los animales son la herramienta que vehiculan los juegos para trabajar la memoria de los enfermos. Si el perro es el mejor amigo del hombre, en Algemés (la Ribera alta) el dicho se eleva a categoría. El pasado viernes al caer la tarde un perro ... (3 enero 2009)

Source: Selected from daily lists compiled by Sonia Mey Schmidt, PAHO News and Public Information Office.

The PAHO/WHO Chronic Disease Program invites the readers of this newsletter to submit contributions on activities related to chronic disease in the Americas. Send contributions (1-3 paragraphs) to Dr. James Hospedales (hospedaj@paho.org) with copy to Pilar Fano (fanopili@paho.org) and Suzanna Stephens (stephens@paho.org). Letters to the Editor should be addressed to Silvana Luciani (lucianis@paho.org). Instructions and criteria can be found on the homepage for this newsletter at the web link below: