



**Pan American Health Organization -PAHO  
Inter American Development Bank -IADB**

**Senior Policy Seminar on Health, Human Capital and Economic Growth: Theory,  
Evidence and Policies**

**PAHO Headquarters  
525 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-2895  
Room B (Second Floor)**

**October 03-04; 2002**

**Seminar Objective(s)**

The main objective of this Seminar is to promote the incorporation in the current policy debate on economic growth and social development the role of the "investments in human capital" as complementary to the domestic rate of savings and investments. Some of the questions to be address during the seminar are: Does the rate of investments in human capital (nutrition, health and education) matters for long term economic growth and social development: reduction of poverty and inequalities?; What do the new theories of endogenous economic growth tell us about the role of investments in human capital and the paths of long-term economic growth? What is the rate of accumulation of human capital across countries of the Americas? What are the transmission mechanisms by which changes in nutrition and health status of the population affects the rate of return to education, productivity, adaptability to changes and economic growth? What is an optimal balance in the rate of investments in human capital and savings and investments?

The Seminar will present and discuss recent advances in the incorporation of the human capital variables in endogenous economic growth models, as well as the recent empirical evidence on the role of the nutritional and health status of the population in explaining economic growth and social development performance. The seminar will include presentations and discussions of analytical models and empirical evidence on ways in which health of the population, as a component of human capital, may explain the persistence of poverty and inequalities in countries of the LAC region.

Leading economists in the field of economic growth and social welfare issues; including Nobel prizes in Economics, will lead discussions on conceptual, analytical and methodological issues around the role of nutritional, health status and other human capital variables in explaining countries long-term economic performance.

### Participants

Leading economists, research scholars, policy makers and government officials working in the field on social investments, economic growth and social developments. Professionals involved in designing and/or implementing Millennium Development Goals strategies and staff from sponsoring institutions. Because of the participatory nature of the event, this event is limited to a total of 35 participants, by invitation only. Some of the sessions will be transmitted via videoconference to countries of the region.

### **Contact Persons:**

Inter American Development Bank  
Alfredo Solarí  
Senior Health Specialist  
Department of Sustainable Development  
Ph. 202 623 1345  
Fax 202 623 1463  
E-Mail: [Alfredos@iadb.org](mailto:Alfredos@iadb.org)

Pan American Health Organization  
Rubén M. Suárez  
Regional Economic Advisor  
Health and Human Development  
Program of Public Policies and Health  
Phone: +01-202 974 3482  
Fax: + 01 202 - 974 3675  
e-mail: [suarezru@paho.org](mailto:suarezru@paho.org)