



Research for Health Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter reporting on the activities of research for health from the office of Knowledge, Bioethics, and Research (KBR) to inform countries, partners, and PAHO managers and staff on the advances in the execution of PAHO's [Policy on Research for Health](#).

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SPOTLIGHT

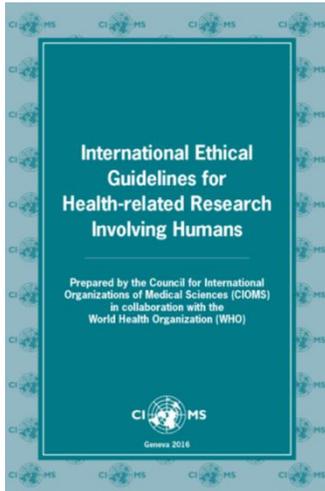
PAHO and British Medical Journal (BMJ) sign agreement to promote research in the Americas



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) signed a memorandum of understanding with The BMJ Publishing Group (BMJPG) to promote and encourage research for health in the Americas region in the next five years. Two key aspects of the agreement include: 1) promoting transparency in research and reducing the waste of research - due to poor research design or because it fails to be published, among other reasons - and 2) improving the dissemination and use of research to contribute to improving public health and equity in the Americas. Both partners will work to increase

the visibility of health research policies in the Americas and to promote best practices in research for health, its governance, the integration of research in health policy, health care, and prevention services. For more information, click [here](#).

Revised CIOMS Guidelines published and presented at webinars and a symposium organized with Peru’s National Institute of Health



© Credit: CIOMS

The revision of the [CIOMS International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans guidelines has been published](#). CIOMS (Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences) was established jointly by WHO and UNESCO in 1949. These guidelines clarify distinctions between research ethics, social science research, public health surveillance, and other research activities in addition to detailed commentaries on how they should be applied, with particular attention to conducting research in low- and middle-income countries. In collaboration with the Program of Bioethics in Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Argentina ([FLACSO](#)), PAHO organized two [webinars](#) on March 24, 2017 to present and discuss the new Guidelines. Ruth Macklin, member of the working group for the review of the Guidelines, led the webinar series.

Peru’s National Institute of Health, in collaboration with PAHO’s Regional Program on Bioethics, organized a symposium on the new CIOMS Guidelines that took place in Lima on March 30th 2017. Dr. Hans van Delden, former President of CIOMS participated in the symposium. Find more information [here](#). The symposium recording in Spanish can be found [here](#).

RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

IN THE REGION

Expansion of the Social Innovation in Health Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean



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Picture of some of the participants of the work sessions in CIDEIM

PAHO and CIDEIM held coordination teleconferences and a work session in March 2017 at the [WHO/TDR Regional Training Center CIDEIM](#) in Cali, Colombia. Partners will articulate the knowledge and experience gained with the [Social Innovation in Health Initiative](#) (a collaboration between WHO/TDR and the universities of Oxford and Cape Town) using it as a benchmark to expand the initiative in the Americas.

The project Social Innovation in Health in Latin America and the Caribbean is an international initiative sponsored by the [WHO Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases –TDR](#) and led by PAHO. It aims to advocate for social innovation in health and provide evidence of impactful local innovations that should be replicated or expanded. In February 2016 the initiative presented at [the 4th University Internationalization Seminar](#) organized by the OAS, the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities, and PAHO. To expand its footprint in Latin America and the Caribbean TDR,

IN THE COUNTRIES

Panamá | Development of a national Policy on Research for Health for Panamá

©Credit Ministerio de Salud Panamá



Between January 31st and February 2nd 2017, a mission of PAHO staff provided technical cooperation to Panama through its country office, the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research, and the Legal Department. The PAHO delegation met with Panamanian authorities and delegates from the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Secretariat of Science and Technology of Panama (SENACYT), the Gorgas Commemorative Institute, the Social Security Bureau, and the University of Panama to advance the proposed

national policy on research for health that is aligned with international standards. Members of the delegation also held individual meetings with research institutions, ethics review experts, SENACYT and the Legal counsel of the MoH to facilitate and guide the advancement of the policy development process.

Mexico | INSP receives NIH Research Grant to build a Regional Center for Research Excellence on Non-communicable Diseases

©Credit INSP



Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública

The National Institute of Public Health ([INSP](#)) in Mexico received a research grant from the U.S. National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health ([NCI/NIH](#)) to create a [Regional Center of Research Excellence](#) (RCRE). The center will: 1) enhance

cancer and diabetes research programs to address local public health needs; 2) strengthen population health research capacity through training and mentoring; 3) establish an organizational framework for sustainable core facility sharing and; and 4) define essential support operations across partners. Main partners for the project include: [Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública](#) (Coordinating Center); Instituto Nacional de Cancerología/INCAN (Mexico); Instituto de Cancerología (Guatemala); [Instituto Nacional de Cáncer \(Colombia\)](#); [Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León](#), Mexico (National Bio Bank Lab); Universidad Hispanoamericana (Costa Rica; and [Harvard University](#) (USA). PAHO will provide technical cooperation in the planning and development of relevant health research activities for the new center.

ARGENTINA | Development of a National public health research agenda with the support of PAHO

©Credit PAHO



The Ministry of health of Argentina and PAHO/WHO held a meeting on December 2016 to agree on the medullar elements for the development of a national public health research agenda. The event held in Buenos Aires gathered representatives from different branches of government and international experts. Various topics were covered including the use of research evidence to inform decisions, the mapping of stakeholders and responsibilities within the national research system, and experiences and strategies used

for the definition of priorities in research for health. The group also conducted an exercise focused on the development of a federal research agenda for public health.

This work is to be followed by a diagnosis of the topics, institutions and human resources needed to conduct needed operational research in the country. This will be done by surveying decision makers, institutions, public health schools, researchers, academia, provincial decision makers and retired staff. This information will be used as an input for a guiding document for the development of the public policy on research for public health. More information [here](#).

IN THE SECRETARIAT

A new sand painting story highlights the role of research in minimizing the impact of sickle cell disease in the Caribbean.

© Credit: PAHO



Shelly Xie is a contributor to PAHO's collection [Transformation for Development](#), of [the Art for Research Project](#). Her stories combine art and science to illustrate research as a driver of development allowing communities to thrive and people to live more fulfilling and productive lives. In this opportunity, Shelly shares the story of Alvita, a 25-year-old woman from Jamaica, who has sickle cell disease. Using sand painting, this fictional story highlights how research can impact multiple determinants of health and development. Xie's stories visually demonstrate how research for health can drive social and

economic development and equity in health. Shelly is now a medical student at the University of Texas. You can find more about her [on Facebook](#), and see her presentations [here](#).

PAHO TV releases video interview series for Policy on Research for Health featuring attendees from the 46th ACHR meeting

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The [PAHO TV](#) YouTube channel released a series of short video interviews called "Policy for Research" featuring attendees to the 46th Advisory Committee on Research for Health (ACHR) addressing questions relevant to the Policy on Research for Health. Participants shared their view points on the importance of investing in research for health, developing country strategies to promote research for health governance, and discussed a larger overview of the benefits and impact on community health from

incorporating the PAHO Research for Health Policy. Check out the video series [here](#)!

MEET THE NEWEST TEAM MEMBER | Dr. Luis Alejandro Salicrup

© Credit: NIH



Dr. Luis Alejandro Salicrup joined the research team at the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research at PAHO/WHO. Dr. Salicrup has over 25 years of experience working on biomedical and global health research and innovation at various institutes and centers of National Institutes of Health (NIH), academia, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry and at the United Nations including the World Health Organization and UNESCO. Dr. Salicrup holds a doctorate in Immunology and Molecular Genetics from Rutgers University & Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine, and a Masters in International Science & Technology Management. He has published books and extensively in peer reviewed journals. Among other various distinctions, Dr. Salicrup received the NIH Director Award twice and was a Fulbright Outstanding Scholar on Global Health and a Science & Diplomacy

Fellow for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). You can find a more detailed biography [here](#).

MEET THE NEWEST TEAM MEMBER | Samantha Brew



© Credit: Luis Gabriel Cuervo

Ms. [Samantha Brew](#) joined the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics, and Research (KBR) at PAHO HQ in Washington, D.C to [intern in research](#). Samantha completed her Bachelor’s degree at George Washington University with a major in International Affairs concentrating in Global Public Health, and minoring in Journalism and Mass Communications. She has worked on global health research at the U.S. Library of Congress and on health and human trafficking issues at the State Department’s Virtual Student Foreign Service program. She has a keen interest in policies and initiatives that address health and human rights issues through research projects. At PAHO, Samantha is focusing on advancing a series of articles on PAHO’s Policy on Research for Health and mapping research resources and outputs relevant to resource mobilization and evaluation initiatives. She will contribute to monitoring and evaluation, and communications activities for scholarship programs among other tasks, with PAHO’s KBR team.

PARTNERSHIPS

Introducing the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development (R&D)



© Credit WHO

In January 2017, WHO launched its Global Health Observatory on Research and Development (R&D). This global platform was developed by WHO and led by a health R&D expert committee with the aims of addressing investment gaps in health R&D and helping to identify R&D priorities based on public health needs. As recommended with PAHO’s [Policy on Research for Health](#), and WHO’s [Strategy on Research for Health](#), the Observatory will provide actionable data linked to databases and reports, and will consolidate, monitor, and analyze information to support coordinated

country actions towards improving health R&D globally. The Observatory aims to offer a new reputable resource for policy-makers, governments, funders, researchers, and members of the civil society who review and query information and trends on health R&D, develop indicators and compare R&D activities between countries, and set priorities for health R&D initiatives. For more information on the Observatory, click [here!](#)

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

USA | Research funding opportunities for Youth, Education, and Sociology!



© Campbell Collaboration

The William T Grant Foundation is currently offering [funding opportunities](#) for research to reduce inequality in the youth, or to improve the use of research evidence in benefit of the youth. The Division of Social and Economic Sciences at the [National Science Foundation](#) is offering training, fellowships, and funding opportunities in sociology. For more information on the full list of opportunities [click here!](#) The [Institute of Education Sciences](#) is offering research and training funding for those interested in the field of education research. For more information use this [link](#).

USA | Gavi Alliance INFUSE 2017 calls for innovative ideas for life saving vaccines



© Credit TDR

Innovation for Uptake, Scale and Equity in Immunization (INFUSE) is an acceleration platform from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, used to identify proven solutions to modernize global health and immunization delivery. INFUSE 2017 is calling for tech-enabled, proven innovations that promote immunization uptake and improve health-service delivery in developing countries. All innovations that leverage technology to address equity challenges and help reach and protect the under-immunized are welcomed, whether low-tech or high-tech, or whether addressing supply or demand issues. Proposals must have advanced beyond the pilot stage and be capable of being deployed at a large scale within 6 to 12 months. INFUSE 2017 is not seeking research or pilot projects. To submit an innovation and more details on the annual INFUSE process please visit the [INFUSE website](#). **Deadline is 10 April 2017.** For questions, please contact infuse@Gavi.org

WORLDWIDE | Are you a research center involved in Evidence Synthesis in Low and Middle Income countries? Become part of the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative

The [Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative](#) (GESI) is launching a **Call for Expression of Interest** for centers involved in



© Credit GESI

Evidence Synthesis in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). GESI plans to establish a network of centers of evidence synthesis in LMICs. **The goal of the network is to build partnerships and collaboration, including strengthening capacity in multidisciplinary evidence synthesis production and use in LMICs.** Through this call for expression of interest, the GESI Secretariat is inviting all centers that are based in LMICs that are, or have been, involved in evidence synthesis to complete an Expression of Interest form available on GESI website. **This call is open from 13 March to 15 April 2017.** [Here for more information.](#)

USA | Call for applications: NIH ethics review committee (IRB) internship program

©Credit: NIH



The Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health offers every year an internship for members and administrators of research ethics review committees (IRBs), and others working on research participant protections. The applications for the 2017 edition of the program will be received **until April 30th**. The information about the internship and the program requirements is available at: <https://bioethics.nih.gov/courses/irb.shtml>. For questions about the program and the application process contact: bioethics-inquiries@mail.nih.gov.

Thoughts or contributions on this newsletter? Send us a message at RP@paho.org

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Contributions: PAHO technical areas, PAHO country offices, the ACHR as well as strategic partners were invited to contribute.

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