

What's New 2010

December

- **Red Cross Supports Pan American Health Organization with \$1.5 Million for Medicines and Supplies for Cholera Response**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 2010 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- In response to the growing cholera epidemic in Haiti, the American Red Cross announced today it is donating \$1.5 million to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to purchase, ship, store and distribute IV fluids and other essential supplies.

This action comes as the number of cholera cases in Haiti has now exceeded 100,000. Funds will provide 250,000 liters of Ringer's Lactate solution, an IV fluid that helps to keep cholera patients hydrated; 15,000 units of erythromycin, an antibiotic; as well as catheters and gloves to help nurses and physicians provide lifesaving medical care.

"The American Red Cross is ensuring that essential medical supplies for the cholera response continue to arrive in Haiti," says PAHO Director Mirta Roses Periago. "This cholera epidemic is expected to reach hundreds of thousands of people in coming months, and we need the coordinated and generous support of organizations like the Red Cross to meet these demands."

Once they arrive in Port-au-Prince, these supplies will be available for immediate distribution in coordination with Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population.

The American Red Cross has already purchased nearly 900,000 sachets of oral rehydration solution, in addition to millions of chlorine tablets to treat water making it safe to drink, soap to ensure basic hygiene, and other health and hygiene-related items.

"We have spent millions of dollars in an aggressive response to the spread of cholera," says Ricardo Caivano, country representative for the American Red Cross in Haiti. "Now, we are further scaling up our response to cholera prevention and treatment, including expanding the geographical scope of our activities."

The American Red Cross has been actively working to educate Haitians about proper preventive measures, reaching more than 100,000 Haitians in Port-au-Prince by going tent-to-tent with cholera prevention tips. The global Red Cross network is also supplying clean drinkable water to more than three hundred thousand people every day.

Meanwhile, PAHO/WHO continues to ensure the availability of intravenous solutions, oral rehydration salts and antibiotics.

PAHO/WHO has been coordinating with a number of on-the-ground organizations including the global Red Cross network, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Doctors without Borders (MSF) to revise estimates and ensure enough supplies are available.

Thanks to the generosity of the American people following the January earthquake, the American Red Cross anticipates having the funds necessary to respond to unexpected emergencies in Haiti including this cholera epidemic. More information on American Red Cross activities and programs can be found at www.redcross.org/haiti.

*Source American Red Cross

- **International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources**



The “International Basic Safety Standards” draft was approved by the Safety Standards Committees at their most recent meetings: first at NUSSC and TRANSSC in November, and then by RASSC and WASSC on December 8th, 2010 at their joint meeting.

There was a constructive dialogue where the members of the Committee made their suggestions from the BSS Secretariat meeting held on December 6th, 2010, formed by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (NEA/OECD), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Commission (EC), and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

All approved recommendations from the Committees and editorial changes will now be incorporated by the IAEA Secretariat, in cooperation with the BSS Secretariat and the Chairpersons of the Safety Standards Committees.

In addition, a consensus was reached so the document is presented to the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) in May 2011 for its approval and then will be

sent to the Board of Governors of the IAEA in September 2011 for the approval of its interim publication. Following the approval, every Organization member of the BSS Secretariat will proceed with its process in order to endorse formally the BSS on the part of its respective Governing Bodies, before its final publication

Link (copy and paste): <http://www-ns.iaea.org/standards/review-of-the-bss.asp?s=11&l=88#1>

- **Meeting of an advisory group on guidance for death determination**

This activity was carried out on December 1st, 2010 and was organized by the Program for Transplants, World Health Organization. During the session there were discussion around the determination of cerebral and cardiorespiratory death was discussed, the guide for determination of brain death and organs transplant, the need for basing the guide on evidence based on studies, and Cochrane revisions and meta-analysis. In addition, the next meeting will be held during the first semester of 2011.

- **Available on this website is the document titled: The Pharmaceutical Situation in the Americas: Compendium of statistical data on indicators of the first level-2007"**

This document contains structure indicators and process of the pharmaceutical situation in the Region classified in 6 components:

- National pharmaceutical policy
- Legislation
- Regulation
- Access to medicines
- Financing
- Trade, and intellectual property, essential medicines and rational use.

The publication is part of the WHO initiative that collects information every four years on the global pharmaceutical situation.

Click [here](#) to see the document.

- **14th International Conference on Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA)**

This conference was held from November 30th to December 3rd, 2010, in Singapore; several topics related to the regulations of medicines, including biological products, were discussed.

Within the plenary sessions the improvement of drug regulation were discussed as part of strengthening health systems, the collaboration, and cooperation among the regulatory agencies, biosimilars, current subjects, and final recommendations from plenary and workshops.

The Coordinator of the project of Medicines and Health Technologies Dr. James Fitzgerald presented the "Quality and Regulation of Medicines and Health

Technologies: PAHO Update". There was a public recognition on the importance of the adoption of Resolution CD50.R9 by the 50th PAHO Directive Council: Strengthening Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologics.

The regional activities related to the work plan of the biotechnological working group of the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH) were discussed by the regulators that participated in the workshop on biosimilars.

The main conclusions reached in most of the workshops were related to the strengthening of National Regulatory Authorities and the establishment of mechanisms to share information among regulators. Also mentioned was the need to strengthen Pharmacovigilance systems, an issue that will be central to the forthcoming ICDRA meeting in 2012.

All information relating to the Conference is available on these websites:

<http://www.icdra2010.sg/>

http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/regulation_legislation/icdra/en/index.html

November

- **Consultation: "Guide for the implementation of strategies for generic medicines in Latin American and Caribbean countries as a mechanism to improve Access to Medicines"**

Washington, DC. November 3rd- December 31st , 2010. This consultation has been initiated by the project of Medicines and Health Technologies (HSS/MT) of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in order to seek input with regard to the document "Guide for the implementation of strategies of generic medicines in Latin American and Caribbean countries as a mechanism to improve Access to Medicines" which was prepared to respond to the mandate Resolution CD45/R7 2004 "Access to Medicines" of the PAHO Directing Council. In this resolution PAHO has been requested to support the countries to develop actions that will improve conditions of access to medicines in the Region.

It is important to emphasize that this document is the product of a working group of PAHO with participation of professionals in medicines and specialists in pharmaceutical policies as well as academics and representatives from Ministries of Health.

 **Consultation: Guide for implementation of strategies for generic medicines (1.24 MB)** (Spanish version only)

Please send comments regarding the document to the following e-mail address:
medicines@PAHO.org

October

- **1st Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Platform for Access and Innovation for Health**



Washington, DC.-The first Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Platform for Access and Innovation for Health was held at the Pan American Health Organization offices in Washington DC from October 27th to the 29th. The Platform is expected to become a channel to improve transparency and information flows that are necessary to promote development of priority health products for the Americas. In addition, the creation of a mechanism to fund technological innovation activities articulated through the Platform and geared towards Regional needs will become another critical element of the project.

This important event was organized by the Project of Medicines and Health Technologies, Area of Health Systems based on Primary Health Care(HSS/MT) of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and gathered representatives of some of the Region's health authorities, research and industry experts as well as technical officers from PAHO/WHO and TDR/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases/World Health Organization).

During her opening remarks, PAHO's Assistant Director, Dr. Socorro Gross-Galiano, underlined the importance of technological innovation for health in the context of the Americas. Subsequently, the Committee was briefed on different issues related to the ongoing and technical cooperation activities related to innovation for health in the Americas, and on a Platform's proposal including information on the structure content and governance model.

The overall goal is to create a Platform composed of a series of virtual tools that will support and promote innovation, access, rational use and good governance in the area of medicines, vaccines, health technologies and diagnostics with a public health perspective and to serve regional health priorities. The scope of the Platform will include but not be limited to, issues related to intellectual property management from a public health perspective, R&D and Innovation for health, rational use of medicines and pharmaceutical and health technologies policies and regulations. It will also aim at strengthening social networks and communities of practice devoted

to improving regional cooperation on innovation and improve equitable access to health products. Website: www.paho.org/medicines

While a consensus was reached on the next necessary stages, the committee stressed the need of member countries' commitment and participation to ensure the success of the project as well as emphasizing that the Platform contemplates the needs of countries with relatively advanced systems of innovation for health and of those member countries with lesser capacities.

Dr. José Luis Di Fabio, PAHO/HSS Manager, thanked the participants for their support, participation, and contribution to constructing and improving the vision and projects specifics and emphasized the value of having a group of diverse and relevant experts from the region as advisors.

"The different perspectives, experiences and sectors that are being articulated through this Regional Platform, are an additional example of the network of networks that constitutes the public health sector. To promote scientific advancement and the use of evidence-based interventions, to confront new challenges, consolidate achievements and to close the public health gaps require a constant and self-reinforcing process of innovation in which we should all take part. Through this meeting we were able to enrich the project with contributions from people directly involved in innovation and technological development; the research, policy, and academic and industry perspectives are the elements we have seek and want to integrate in this Platform for the benefit off all peoples in the Americas" noted PAHO's Director, Dr Mirta Roses Periago during the closing of the event.

Established in 1902, PAHO works to improve the health and the quality of life of people of the Americas and serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization. PAHO member states today include 38 countries in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

- **Ministry of Health of Guatemala will process purchase of antiretroviral medicines through PAHO/WHO for the year 2011 in order to meet the quality criteria and transparency in the expenditure. October 29th, 2010**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) has recently been informed by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS) of the procurement of antiretroviral medicines according to the needs of the country for the year 2011 through PAHO/WHO Strategic Fund.

[Please click here to read more](#) (spanish version only)

- **PAHO Distributing Medical Supplies from PROMESS Warehouse to Fight Cholera Outbreak in Haiti**

Washington, DC, October 29, 2010 (PAHO) Since the start of the current cholera outbreak in Haiti, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has distributed more than 64,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts, more than 3,500 liters of intravenous (IV) fluids, and more than 180,000 antibiotic tablets to treat patients suffering from the disease.

PROMESS, a PAHO-managed warehouse in Port-au-Prince that is the main source of essential medicines and medical supplies in Haiti, has distributed these supplies free of charge to hospitals and health facilities, including many that are staffed by international nongovernmental organizations.

Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP - Ministère de la santé publique et de la population) has reported 4,649 cases of cholera and 305 deaths in four departments since October 20. Artibonite and Central are the most affected areas. The ministry has established a flexible surveillance system to collect daily data on cholera, taking into account the Internally Displaced Persons Surveillance System (IDPSS) to create a clear picture of the disease trend.

PAHO continues to mobilize international experts in epidemiology, risk communication, case management, laboratory, water and sanitation, logistics, and supply management systems to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by exposure to or ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. Up to 80 percent of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts. Worldwide, there are an estimated 3–5 million cholera cases and 100,000–120,000 deaths every year. Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical to reducing the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

PAHO was made aware of concerns regarding a request this week for cholera-related supplies by the U.S.-based nongovernmental organization J/P HRO. PAHO's inquiry into the matter determined that J/P HRO requested and received 500 IV catheters, 2,000 liters of IV fluids, 10,000 doxycycline tablets, and body bags from PROMESS since the start of the cholera outbreak. A delay in distributing 1,000 liters of IV fluids occurred when PROMESS attempted to verify directly with medical personnel at the St. Nicolas Hospital in Artibonite whether these fluids were urgently needed, as they are currently in short supply. J/P HRO did receive the fluids and reportedly delivered them to St. Nicolas Hospital later the same day.

PROMESS continues to procure and distribute cholera-related supplies free of charge to all healthcare providers registered with Haiti's Ministry of Health. Staff of both PAHO and PROMESS are strongly committed to doing everything they can to meet the health needs of Haitians.

PAHO is coordinating efforts with other UN agencies and with health officials in the United States and Canada. Relief efforts continue as the Haitian government, MINUSTAH, UN agencies and NGOs continue to provide assistance in a growing number of locations.

About PROMESS

PROMESS ("Programme de Médicaments Essentiels") is the principal provider of essential medicines and medical supplies in the Republic of Haiti. It was created in 1992 with funding from the World Bank, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States, UNFPA, UNICEF, and the European Commission, as well as partners in Haiti's Management Council, chaired by the Minister of Public Health.

Following the January 12 earthquake, PROMESS played a critical role in receiving and distributing international medical relief aid. Between January 12 and the end of February, PROMESS distributed nearly US\$ 2.5 million in medicines and supplies free of charge to some 250 different organizations.

Links videos:

- [Video PROMESS \(Essential Medicines Program\)](#)
- [Cholera in the Americas](#)
- [The Seventh Epidemic Peru 1991](#)

Other links:

- [PROMESS: Essential Medicines Program \(PROMESS\)](#)
- [PAHO Site for Disasters and Humanitarian Assistance](#)
- [Emergency Operation Center \(EOC\) Situation Report on Cholera Outbreak in Haiti](#)
- [PAHO Cholera Outbreak in Haiti Blog](#)

* *Knowledge Management and Communication, PAHO/WHO*

- **XXV Inter-American Congress of Radiology (CIR) Santiago de Chile.**
October 29th -31st, 2010.

The Inter-American Congress of Radiology was attended by about 1000 specialists and experts in the field of Radiology and was presented as an opportunity to exchange scientific experiences between Latin American radiologists

The academic program was divided into areas of interest: breast imaging, musculoskeletal, thoracic and cardiovascular, abdomen, neuroradiology, interventionism and pediatrics. In addition, various symposia were carried out on new developments of the radiological industry.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) was invited to the congress and presented "Radiation Protection in Radiology" in the Plenary Session: Towards a Latin American Radiology of Excellence: Our main challenges. In this session, important issues of practice and development of the specialty in the Region were addressed, such as: comprehensive development of the radiologist, professional certification and accreditation of educational programs, radiation protection, teleradiology, publications and journals of radiology, bioethics, integration of the subspecialties, and interaction with other international institutions.

PAHO was invited to be present at the General Assembly, principle governance structure of the CIR; the president of the institution presented achievements and activities for the period, including those carried out with PAHO. Also, it was announced that the Board of Directors elected Dr. Oswaldo Ramos Núñez from Venezuela as new President of the CIR.

For more details about the meeting: <http://www.congresocir2010.org/index.php>

- **Ministers of Health from Andean Countries adopt important resolutions on Medicines and Health Technologies.** October 19, 2010

Given the need to develop strategies and mechanisms to improve access, availability and affordability of essential medicines, especially those orphan products and products for priority programs such as HIV / AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis; the Sub-Regional Technical Committee for Medicinal Products for The Andean Region, with the support of the Executive Secretariat of the Andean Health Body (Hipólito Unanue Agreement (ORAS-CONHU) and the Pan American Health Organization (through the Strategic Fund) has been exploring options, mechanisms and strategies to improve access.

On October 19th, 2010, after analyzing the progress report presented by the technical working group, the Health Ministers of the Andean Region adopted a resolution requesting the Sub-Regional Technical Commission for Access to Medicines to explore mechanisms for planning and assessing requirements for public production of essential medicines, strengthen the regional observatory for medicine prices and develop strategies for individual or joint purchase of medicines and essential medical supplies through existing mechanisms such as the Strategic Fund of the Pan American Health Organization. Also, the Sub Regional Technical Committee was instructed to implement the Andean Pharmacovigilance Program, based on guidelines for Good Pharmacovigilance Practices proposed by The Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization.

In the same meeting, the Ministers of Health concluded that Health Technology Assessment is an essential tool for supporting decision making by the Health Authorities to review technological advances in health systems. A further resolution approved "The Andean Policy for Health Technology Assessment" prepared by the Sub Regional Technical Committee, urging the Executive Secretary of the ORAS-CONHU, with the support of PAHO / WHO and other institutions, to implement the Plan of Action.

Resolutions:

 [Access to strategic medicines \(1.15 MB\)](#) (spanish version only)

 [The Andean Policy for Health Technology Assesment \(565.07 kB\)](#) (spanish version only)

- **VIII Regional Congress on Radiological and Nuclear Safety, Medellin,**
October 11 – 15, 2010

The conference was organized by the International Radiation Protection of Latin America and the Caribbean (FRALC) and the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). The purpose of the conference was to update and share knowledge on topics of interest, thus promoting research and scientific and technological development of nuclear safety and radioprotection in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On October 9th, 2010, a joint IAEA /PAHO conference was organized: "Regulation for the control of radiation sources and protection of patients in medical exposure", focused on analyzing the regulatory situation in various countries and exploring support to strengthen the Ministries of Health regulatory functions through a Joint IAEA / PAHO Strategy.

Links:

<http://www.acpr.org.co/>

<http://www.slideshare.net/medinao/50-programa-radiologia-y-radioproteccion-ops>

- **Regional Meeting on Transfer of Technology for Innovation. Montevideo Uruguay. October 12-14, 2010**

This meeting took place in Uruguay, and was attended by representatives of 10 countries in the Americas. The meeting aimed to promote knowledge transfer, processes and technologies that will address health needs in the region, contributing to economic and social development of Member States.

Participants focused on addressing issues relating to regulatory frameworks, intellectual property, financing of technology transfer, capacity building and regional priorities.

This meeting was of importance for the region as a component and activity of the Global Strategy for Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property and Regional Perspective (EGPA / PR).

Documents presented at the meeting:

 [Progress on the Implementation of the Regional Perspective of the Global Strategy of Public, Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.](#) Dr. James Fitzgerald. Washington, DC

 [Presentation: Dreams and Dream: from an uruguayan traditional company to a knowledge-based organization for international competitiveness.](#) Dr. Rodolfo Silveira. Uruguay

 [Technology Transfer in the Industrial Health.](#) Brazil

 [Innovation in Health: The Role of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer.](#) Dr. Maria Celeste Emerick. Brazil

 [Center of Molecular Immunology \(CIM\) La Havana, Cuba.](#) MSc.Yodira Pérez Díaz. Cuba

 [Technology Transfer. Cuba Experiences CECMED.](#) MsC.Lisette Pérez Ojeda. Cuba

* These documents are available only in Spanish

- **Virtual Course on Pharmaceutical Services for managers based on PHC. August-November 2010**

In order to promote the development of pharmaceutical services based in Primary Health Care (PHC) through capacity building of leaders and managers of pharmacy services at different levels, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) National School of Public Health FIOCRUZ in Brazil, Antioquia Cooperative Hospitals and the Hospital Research and Development Group of the Federal University of Rio Grande do

Sul in Brazil, have launched a distance learning course August 12, 2010 to November 25, 2010 through the Virtual Campus of Public Health of PAHO.

Professionals and technologists in managerial, academic and administrative area of pharmaceutical services from 16 countries in Latin America are participating in this activity.

Participants will develop a proposal in the area of pharmaceutical services during the course, a proposal that is expected to be completed and implemented by countries. In addition, PAHO's position on pharmaceutical services based on PHC services will be discussed in order to improve and consolidate future courses.

- **PAHO, Brazil's Ministry of Health and National Health Surveillance Agency Signed New Cooperation Agreement**

During the 50th Meeting of the Directing Council, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) signed a major agreement with the Ministry of Health of Brazil (MS), the Brazilian Agency for National Health Surveillance (ANVISA) in which they commit to strengthening regional cooperation in health surveillance and pharmaceutical regulation.

For more information, please click [here](#)

- **PAHO will develop a regional virtual platform for pharmaceutical regulations: FDA provides funding to launch the project Washington, DC October 6, 2010**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced the award of a \$904,000 cooperative agreement to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to research and develop an information hub for medical products and related regulatory processes and systems in the Americas Region.

The award will help FDA, and all PAHO member states, to better understand other countries' regulatory systems, support capacity to use harmonized standards and guidelines across countries, and prevent, and if necessary respond more quickly to, problems in the medical product supply chain.

Link press release PAHO:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3568&Itemid=1926

September

- **50th Directing Council. Discussion of the Resolution "Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities for Medicines and Biologicals" Washington, DC September 30, 2010**

This resolution was developed to support the initiative of member states as requested by the Executive Committee of PAHO in June 2010. The presentation of the resolution was given by the Manager of Health Systems based on Primary Health Care (HSS) Dr. Jose Luis Di Fabio and the Project Coordinator for Medicines and Health Technologies (HSS/MT) Dr. James Fitzgerald.

In his speech to the Directing Council, Dr. Di Fabio indicated that national regulatory authorities must ensure that products marketed continue granting and registrations procedures to ensure its quality, promotion and rational use. In addition, Dr. Di Fabio stressed the importance of working the weaknesses of regulatory capabilities of each country for its strengthening.

During the Council, delegates from Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, United States, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela approved the resolution and agreed to work with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to strengthen the capacity of the National Regulatory Authorities of Medicines in order to ensure the quality and effectiveness of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and biological products.

Link press release PAHO:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3536&Itemid=1926

Link/ Resolution CD50/20, Rev.1:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3149&Itemid=2401&lang=en

- **PAHO 50th Directing Council Meeting : Strengthening Regulatory Authorities in Medicines and Biologicals.** September-October 2010

Washington, DC. September 27-October 1, The Directing Council will meet to consider working documents and resolutions providing strategic guidance to PAHO Member States and the Secretariat in public health related issues.

One of the issues on the agenda of the Directing Council is the challenge that countries are facing to strengthen regulatory capacity for medicines and biological products. The draft resolution calls on Member States to work together in strengthening regulatory capacity and avail of technical cooperation through the PAHO Secretariat to work towards the goal of establishing National Regulatory Authorities of Reference for the Region.

To read more about this meeting click [here](#)

- **Congress on Pharmaceutical Care. San José de Costa Rica.** September 22-24, 2010

The congress was organized by the National Center of Information on Medicines (CIMED) of the University of Costa Rica and the Organization of Iberolatinamerican Pharmaceuticals of Costa Rica (OFIL) and was attended by around 200 pharmacists of the Social Security Fund, the private sector, universities, and the Ministry of

Health. Representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other Latin American countries also participated.

The event focused on how pharmaceutical professionals make available knowledge and competencies through different professional services for patients, with the meeting slogan being : “Medicines Professionals: In the service of the patient”

Furthermore, the importance of the role of the pharmaceutical professional was underscored for the good of the patients, this in complete coherence with the proposal of PAHO/WHO related to the strengthening of the health systems and services based on PHC (Primary Health Care) and having the patient at the center of the health care.

In addition, presentations related to the role of the pharmacist were made to address health problems that do not require medications such as smoking cessation or in support of special groups, for example patients who have auditory disability.

The representative of PAHO, Dr. Nelly Marín submitted the proposal “Pharmaceutical Services based on PHC”, in addition to the program “Good Governance in the Pharmaceutical Sector” being implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 26 countries around the world.

There was a clear commitment from institutions represented in the congress to support the organization of a broad national meeting to discuss the PAHO reference document on “Pharmaceutical Services based on PHC”.

- **9th Central American and Caribbean Congress of Anesthesiology. "Anesthesia Safety" Guatemala. September 20-24, 2010**

The meeting took place from 20 to 24 September in Guatemala, was organized by the Guatemalan Association of Anesthesiology, revival and treatment of pain (AGARTD) and the Central American and Caribbean Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (FESACAC).

As part of the activity experts in the field of anesthesiology discussed current issues of Pharmacology, Monitoring, Pediatric Anesthesia, obstetric trauma, all oriented to the most current and safe method of anesthesia care.

Dr. Dolors Montserrat Capella, who represented the OPS at the meeting, presented "The Importance of reporting adverse events and “Impact of the implementation of the checklist surgical in hospital costs”. She also met the technical team of Dr. Silvia Palma, Deputy Minister of Hospitals, to discuss the possibility of developing a national strategy for patient safety and implementation of the Safe Surgery Program and visit the hospital Herrera Llerandi in Guatemala and met with the Director and the Quality Committee.

The Deputy Ministry of Hospitals is committed to launch the Safe Surgery Program and Surgical Checklist; this action met the goal to continue working on improving safety in the practice of anesthesiology.

- **Course on “Strengthening Monitoring and Causality Assessment of Adverse Events Attributable to Immunization (ESAVI) for English speaking Caribbean Countries”. St. Lucia WI. September 13-17, 2010**

This workshop was coordinated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and was attended by English-speaking Caribbean countries involved in the monitoring, research and evaluation of ESAVI from Anguilla, Antigua/Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago y Turks & Caicos Islands.

A set of modules on ESAVI (adverse events following immunization) monitoring and causality assessment, developed and updated by the World Health Organization (WHO) together with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), was used during this course; this allowed group discussion among participants, who presented and discussed the results of daily exercises.

At the end of the course, a short presentation was made presenting activities undertaken in the Region through the Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH) and the Regional Network of Quality Control of Vaccines Laboratories (RRLNCCV), with clear examples of how the NRA and the EPI Programs should function and to explain the role of an NRA in the assessment area ESAVI.

- **Meeting of DURG-LA. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. September 15th and 16th, 2010**

On September 15th and 16th, the annual meeting of DURG-LA (Drug Utilization Research Group of Latin America) was held in Bolivia. Experts from twelve countries in Latin America and the Caribbean attended this meeting.

The participants presented and discussed ongoing projects like MUDE (Drugs Used During Pregnancy) and the access to medicines in childhood. Particularly, the participants presented the progress and prospects of the Network Information Center, a combined project between the DURG-LA and PAHO/WHO. The network will have at the end of the month a draft procedures guiding for its operations.

Moreover, the PANDRH Working Group on Pharmacovigilance presented a summary on the recent course and confirmed that the published version of the guide will be available in early October. It was also decided to propose at the next conference the consultation regarding the expansion of the following components in pharmacovigilance: vaccines, clinical trials and risk management.

- **Regional Workshop on Promotion of the Rational Use of Medicines. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. September 13th and 14th, 2010**

On September 13th and 14th, the launch of the Pilot of the Strategy for the Rational Use of Medicines, was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Health of Bolivia and was supported by PAHO / WHO.

The framework of the regional strategy was presented in this meeting and motivated by PAHO / WHO. Based on this, and with the participation of National Stakeholders, The Bolivia National Proposal was developed. At the gathering suggestions were made to modify the proposal and to consolidate the implementation of a working proposal.

- **Pharmacovigilance Regional Training Workshop. Quito Ecuador.**
September 8-10, 2010

From September 8-10, 2010, the Pharmacovigilance Regional Training Workshop for Medicines, Vaccines and Biological Products was held in Quito, Ecuador. The meeting was organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) together with Cuba's Epidemiology Center.

The training included representatives from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Nicaragua, who developed short presentations and group work. Training will continue with a small project to be developed by participants in their workplace.

- **Three Quality Control Laboratories for Medicines in the Region of the Americas are considered as International References for Agencies of the United Nations.** September 2010

Washington, D.C., 10 September 2010 (PAHO)—The national Laboratories for the Quality Control of Medicines in Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay have been prequalified by PAHO/WHO to serve as "International Reference Laboratories for the Agencies of the United Nations".

CONCAMYT, the National Laboratory for Quality Control of Medicines (Bolivia), the National Center for Quality Control-CNCC (Peru) and the Commission for Quality Control of Medicines-CCCM (Uruguay) have completed all stages of the prequalification process established by PAHO/WHO and have been incorporated in the reference list of quality control laboratories for Medicines that PAHO/WHO provides for Agencies of the United Nations.

The three prequalified laboratories participate actively in the Regional Network of Quality Control Laboratories in the Americas, an initiative coordinated by the Medicines and Health Technologies project at PAHO in order to strengthen the capacity of quality control laboratories within national health systems. The international reference laboratories also perform an important role in the quality monitoring of the medicines purchased through International Organizations as PAHO/WHO, the Global Fund, UNAIDS, UNICEF, the Red Cross, Clinton Foundation, among others.

The prequalification of the laboratories was achieved with the support of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), through joint activities developed with PAHO in the performance evaluation of the laboratories, as well as through technical support activities sponsored by the Pan American Network for the Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH).

- **INVIMA QLC Network. Bogota, Colombia.** September 2010

On September 2, 2010, a National Meeting organized by the National Institute of Monitoring of Food and Drug Monitoring (INVIMA) entitled "Rendering Operational of the National Network of Laboratories of Food, and the formation of the Network of Quality Control Laboratories to Medicines in the Health Monitoring Framework" was held in Bogotá, Colombia.

Attendees for this event included Secretaries of Health Department and the District, Coordinators of the IVC (Inspection Monitoring and Control), Public Health Laboratory Department and District Coordinators, as well as representatives from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), and the Ministry of Social Protection (MPS).

The meeting successfully reached its objective of sensitizing the Public Health Laboratories and created joint strategies for implementation the Health Departmental Secretaries in relation to health surveillance for the improvement of activities in the field of Food and Medicines. In addition, a statement was made stating intentions to present the departmental authorities the activities of medicines control at three levels: visual, physical, primary chemical and compendial/ pharmacopoeias for all departments to form a network based on these levels, reaching the maximum.

PAHO made important contributions to this event upon carrying out two presentations, one concerning the Pan American Network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories as part of the Red PARF and another about Laboratory Network of Medicine Control in Peru.

August

- **WHO/KFDA Workshop on implementing WHO guidelines on evaluating similar biotherapeutic products.** August 2010

The above mentioned workshop took place on August 24th – 26th in Seoul, Korea and was organized by the WHO and the Regulatory Authority of Korea (KFDA). The main objective of this first workshop was to implement the guidelines adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) in October 2009 "WHO Guideline on evaluating similar biotherapeutic products (SEBs)" and to know the perspective of all participants to improve future workshops related with its adoption and/or implementation.

This activity was attended by National Regulatory Authorities (Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Brazil, Cuba, Iran, Jordan, Canada, China, Singapore, Thailand and United Kingdom), academy members (India and Thailand), the pharmaceutical industry (India, Brazil, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, Jordan, China and Korea) and WHO and PAHO representatives.

Dr. Maria Luz Pombo, who represented the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in this workshop, presented **"PAHO Region current picture: Harmonization plan on biotechnological products regulation"**.

- **International Symposium CONAMED-PAHO. "Patient Safety." Regional Workshop: "Incident Reporting System and Adverse Events."** August 2010

Together, with the PAHO office in Mexico and the National Medical Arbitration Commission (CONAMED), the Regional Workshop: "Developing an Incident Reporting System and Adverse Events," was conducted on August 10th and August 11th, 2010 in Mexico City and organized by the regional office of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, DC.

Among the attendees, experts from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Spain, Mexico, Peru and the World Health Organization (Geneva). In this meeting, they discussed which features, requirements, and precautions must meet a reporting system, the involvement of professionals, the advantages and difficulties in its implementation.

Additionally, during the 12th and 13th of August and following the workshop, the International Symposium CONAMED-PAHO "Patient Safety" was held. The meeting presented the Policy and Patient Safety Programs at the regional level. This meeting included participants of the same countries in the workshop and the Regional Office of PAHO / wdc.

For more information, click [here](#)

- **Pharmaceutical Policy Workshop.** August 2010

Workshop about concepts and the formulation of the National Pharmaceutical Policy. El Salvador. August 16 - 18, 2010.

July

- **Regional Workshop: Impact of the exclusion of health services on access to medicines in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala.** July 2010

The study was conducted in the countries Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua between 2008 and 2009. The results of the study offer valuable information regarding the situation of access to health services and medicines in these countries.

[Please click here to read more](#)

June

- **World Blood Donor Day 2010: Message from artist, Shaila Durcal** (June 2010)

On 14 June 2010, the annual World Blood Donor Day ceremony for the Region of the Americas will be held in Nicaragua. These yearly special celebrations recognize the effort and dedication of all volunteer donors, who, every day, make altruistic contributions in order to give life to those who need it. Thanks to these volunteers,

National Blood Programs can improve their operations in order to achieve the necessary self-sufficiency.

[Please click here to view the video message from Shaila Durcal](#)

- **PAHO/WHO launches contest on successful experiences in the management of compliance to antiretroviral therapies in Latin America and the Caribbean** (June 2010)

The deadline to enter the contest is June 14th, 2010.

For more information, please [click here](#) (Spanish only)

May

- **New agreement between PAHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the provision of procurement services** (May 2010)

Under this agreement, UNFPA will offer Procurement services to PAHO for the suppliers and services for use in promoting reproductive health. This cooperation is being established in the context of providing joint support to recipient countries.

- **ANVISA Brazil recognized as Reference National Regulatory Agency for PAHO** (May 2010)
- **PAHO publishes radiological health guide entitled "Guía de Gestión e Incorporación de Tecnología: Radiología de Propósitos Generales"** (May 2010)

To download document, please click [here](#) (Spanish only)

April

- **Website created for PROMESS, PAHO's administered central stores for essential medicines and medical goods in Haiti** (April 2010)

A Web site was created for PROMESS, PAHO's administered central stores for essential medicines and medical goods in Haiti. The main objective of this site is to clarify that PROMESS continues to distribute essential medicines in Haiti. It provides procedures for acquiring medicines through PROMESS, as well as offering useful links. The site can be found at: www.paho.org/promess

March

- **PAHO publishes document entitled "Harmonized requirements for the licensing of vaccines in the Americas and Guidelines for preparation of application"** (March 2010)

This document was discussed and approved by the Pan American Network on Drug Regulatory Harmonization, during the V Conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on November 2008.

To view the document, please click [here](#)

- **PAHO, ANVISA and the Brazilian Ministry of Health publish "Uso Racional de Medicamentos en la Perspectiva Multiprofesional"** (March 2010)

For more information, please click [here](#) (Spanish)

To download the document, please click [here](#) (Spanish)

- **PAHO publishes article describing the medicine procurement activities of the Strategic Fund** (March 2010)

PAHO's Strategic Fund was discussed in an article by Horst and Soler (2010). The article, entitled "The PAHO Strategic Fund: a mechanism to facilitate access to medicines," was published in the Pan American Journal of Public Health and sought to describe the medicine procurement activities of the Strategic Fund.

To view the abstract, please click [here](#)

February

- **PROMESS continues distribution of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies in Haiti** (February 2010)

To view the press release, please click [here](#)

- **PAHO and ICTSD publish "Evaluación del Impacto de las Disposiciones de ADPIC + en el Mercado Institucional de Medicamentos de Costa Rica"** (February 2010)

El presente estudio concluye que las normas "ADPIC-Plus" generan ciertos efectos económicos tales como el incremento de precios y por ende del gasto público destinado a la compra de medicamentos, así como la reducción de la competencia de la industria de medicamentos genéricos. El análisis de impacto de normas "ADPIC-Plus" en Costa Rica es muy particular debido a la obligación establecida en la Constitución de ese país de garantizar el derecho a la salud, el acceso a los medicamentos y al seguro social. Estas obligaciones se han trasladado de forma práctica al contexto interno a través de un servicio de salud universal, igualitario y protector de los derechos de los usuarios. En tal sentido, la evaluación de impacto en Costa Rica se focalizó exclusivamente en mercado institucional de medicamentos.

[\(download document\)](#)

January

- **PAHO Press Release: "Promess Warehouse: Matching the world's medical donations to Haiti"** (January 2010)

([view press release](#))

- **Message on behalf of the Emergency Operations Center regarding medical supplies donations to Haiti**

The EOC is requesting information regarding the donations of medical supplies to Haiti (January 2010)

At the request of Dr. Roses, PAHO Director and in coordination with the Medicines and Technologies Project, we would like to request your collaboration to contact the national authorities and technical cooperation agencies in your countries in order to find out the list of drugs and medical technologies that are currently donated to Haiti, as well as those that are planned to be donated in the upcoming future. Please pay special attention to the donations of medical equipment.

Please request information to the national authorities about these health supplies in order to compile them since they can be used to make decisions to establish priorities for the cooperation of our Organization.

Attached please find two possible references that could guide national authorities in making decisions regarding the donation of medicines and medical technology:

<http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/en/d/Js13486e/# Js13486e>

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1999/who_edm_par_99.4.pdf

Please take into account that shipments of cooperation must be comprehensive packages aimed at addressing specific health needs (care during childbirth, chronic diseases such as diabetes including emergency kits, HIV-AIDS, trauma care kits, including all material required, anesthesia, gas, preferably portable radiology equipment).

Please respond to Ms. Julie Buekens (buekensj@paho.org)

- **Study completed by Health Action International (HAI) highlights the enormous disparity that exists in medicines pricing in the Americas** (January 2010)

Health Action International (HAI) recently completed a study on the cost of a treatment of Ciprofloxacin 500mg in 93 countries worldwide, including 14 in the Region of the Americas. The study highlights the enormous disparity that exists in medicine pricing at the global level and in the Americas, not only between the originator and the product, but also in the price of a generic Ciprofloxacin between neighboring countries. The study also highlights that there is little relationship between the price of a medicine and average income levels (using the World Bank classification).

([Please follow this link for further information on the study](#))