

Dr. Socorro Gross Galiano¹



**Candidate for the position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau
Pan American Health Organization
(2013-2018)**

SECTION I: General information

- 1) **Full name:** Socorro Gross Galiano
- 2) **Place and Date of Birth:** Costa Rica, 12 May 1957
- 3) **Nationality:** Costa Rican
- 4) **Current Place of Residence:** United States
- 5) **Mailing address:** [DELETED]
- 6) **Phone numbers (home, cellular):** [DELETED]
- 7) **E-mail address:** [DELETED]
- 8) **Educational Degrees:**

MSc in Epidemiology, University of Texas School of Public Health (1986-1989).
Thesis: “Hypertension and non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus. Mexican American of Starr County, Texas”.

Doctor of Medicine and Surgery, University of Costa Rica (1976–1982).

¹ *NOTE FROM THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU: This curriculum vitae, was translated by PASB from the original Spanish version received from the candidate. For the purpose of its inclusion on the Web page on the election process, personal contact information has been deleted.*

Languages: Spanish, English

SECTION II: Professional background

9) Current position:

Assistant Director of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) 2008–current

10) Previous positions:

PAHO/WHO Representative in Nicaragua. 2005–2008

PAHO/WHO Representative in the Dominican Republic. 1997–2005

Acting PAHO/WHO Representative in Colombia. 1996

Adviser on Health Promotion. PAHO/WHO in Colombia 1994–1997

Chief of the Adult Health Section. Department of Preventive Medicine, Technical Directorate for Health Services, Costa Rican Social Security Institute (CCSS), San José, Costa Rica 1993

Coordinator of the Basic Technical Group of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP). PAHO. San José, Costa Rica. 1991–1992

Chief of the Adult Health Section. Department of Preventive Medicine, Technical Directorate for Health Services, Costa Rican Social Security Institute (CCSS), San José, Costa Rica 1989–1991

Professor of Epidemiology. Department of Public Health, University of Costa Rica School of Medicine, San José, Costa Rica. 1989–1993

Chief of the Health Services Research Section. Costa Rican Social Security Institute (acting for Dr. Hernán Vargas). San José, Costa Rica. 1985–1986

Research Assistant. Health Services Research Section. Costa Rican Social Security Institute. San José, Costa Rica. 1984–1986

Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Medical 1984–1986

Technology. University of Costa Rica School of Medicine, San Pedro, Costa Rica.

Attending Physician, Outpatient and Emergency Consultations. 1983–1984
Clínica Bolaños Araya, Heredia, Costa Rica.

Physician in Charge of Consultations for Chronic Terminal Patients. 1983–1984
Clínica Bolaños Araya, Heredia, Costa Rica.

Social Service Physician. Outpatient, emergency, and inpatient hospital consultations. Limón Hospital, Costa Rica. 1982–1983

11) Relevant publications:

Gross-Galiano, Socorro. *Hypertension and non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus Mexican American of Starr County, Texas*. Thesis. University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health. 1989. Available at the University Library.

Delgado, Hernán L.; Gross, Socorro. *Enfermedades no transmisibles y dieta en la región centroamericana*. Mexico, D. F.; 1992. 45 p. Presented at the conference La Dieta como Factor de Riesgo de Enfermedades Crónicas no Transmisibles, Mexico, D. F., 3–5 August 1992.

Location: INCAP/CE/066. Available at:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=17393&Itemid=2518

[http://bases.bireme.br/cgi-](http://bases.bireme.br/cgi-bin/wxislind.exe/iah/online/?IsisScript=iah/iah.xis&src=google&base=LILACS&lang=p&nextAction=lnk&exprSearch=169506&indexSearch=ID)

[bin/wxislind.exe/iah/online/?IsisScript=iah/iah.xis&src=google&base=LILACS&lang=p&nextAction=lnk&exprSearch=169506&indexSearch=ID](http://bases.bireme.br/cgi-bin/wxislind.exe/iah/online/?IsisScript=iah/iah.xis&src=google&base=LILACS&lang=p&nextAction=lnk&exprSearch=169506&indexSearch=ID)

Gross Galiano, Socorro; Tejada Beato, Manuel; Natera, Ilda; Centeno Vega, Rigoberto; Alfaro Canton, Gerardo. *Fortalecimiento de la atención primaria*. Santo Domingo, D. N.: Department of Public Health and Social Service, 2001. 33 pp.

Location: PWR/DOR 9878

http://new.paho.org/dor/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=90&Itemid=222

Gross, Socorro; Martínez, Heizel; Robles, Sylvia C; Jiménez, Francisco; Flores, Miguel E. *Resumen del perfil epidemiológico de Costa Rica*. San José: Ministry of Health, 1991. [40] p. Tab. Available at:

http://books.google.com.do/books/about/Resumen_del_perfil_epidemiologico_de_Cos.html?id=39ooHAAACAAJ&redir_esc=y

Restrepo, Helena E.; Llanos, Guillermo; Contreras, Alfonso; Recabado, Fernando; Gross, Socorro; Suarez, Julio; González, Julio. *Experiencia de OPS/OMS en América Latina con los municipios saludables*. In: División de Promoción y Protección de la Salud. Ciudades

Saludables y Ecológicas. Madrid, March 1995. 18 pp, illustrated.
Available at: <http://www.bvsde.paho.org/bvsacd/residuos/restrep.pdf>

Gross, Socorro; Cruz Penate Mario; Pedreira Maria Cristina; y colaboradores. *Análisis de Situación de Salud y Recomendaciones para el Desarrollo Sanitario de Nicaragua*. Managua, 2006. Available at:
http://new.paho.org/nic/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=270&Itemid=235

Gross, Socorro; Aguilar, Reynaldo; Gómez, José; Cajina, Julio; Solís, Alejandro; Carballo, Luis. *Perfil de Salud ODM4: Salud Infantil*. Managua, Nicaragua, 2008.
Available at: <http://new.paho.org/nic/>

12) Main contributions in public management and administration, public health, international health, and public health leadership:

For more than three decades, Dr. Gross has worked tirelessly in favor of public health and the public health sector, devoting more than 20 years to international health cooperation. Areas of particular educational and professional expertise include strengthening of health systems and services, chronic disease prevention and control, and health promotion. Dr. Gross has steadfastly promoted universal access to health, primary care, and the principles of human rights, equity in health, solidarity, and Pan-Americanism. As Assistant Director of PAHO, her dedication to achieving results has led technical teams to direct their efforts and human and financial resources to countries, with particular attention to priority nations, forging strategic partnerships and strengthening cooperation among countries.

Highlights of Dr. Gross's distinguished record of public service include:

- ✓ **Responding to the health-related needs and challenges of countries, with particular emphasis on technical cooperation to progress toward the Millennium Development Goals**, by means of coordination, in her capacity as Assistant Director of PAHO, of the development of a set of conceptual frameworks, policies, strategies, and action plans approved by the Directing Council, the topics of which include: Health and human rights; Health and Human security; Family and community health approach; Integrated networks of health services; Human resources education with a focus on competencies for Primary Health Care teams; a Plan of Action to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality and severe morbidity, in conjunction with the Safe Motherhood Initiative; Plans for chronic disease control and prevention and for the health of older persons; and Plans of action on the harmful use of alcohol and psychoactive substances use. Furthermore, Dr. Gross has been the driving force behind the strengthening of Technical Advisory Groups for management and monitoring of the implementation of regional plans.

- ✓ **Leadership and ability in the coordination of emergency and disaster preparedness and response.** Dr. Gross was in charge of technical coordination during the H1N1 pandemic, with particular emphasis on coordination and the dialogue among and with countries, coordination between programs to meet their needs, and rapid sharing of experiences within the Region and with other regions. Further noteworthy contributions include response to multiple natural disasters in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua, to an outbreak of vaccine-derived poliovirus in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and collaboration with Haiti during several emergencies.
- ✓ **Recipient of the PAHO Manager of the Year Award in 1999, for her ability in management of results-based cooperation and use of planning instruments for strengthening national institutions,** as well as administration, human resources management, and resource mobilization. The Dominican Republic and Nicaragua offices were recognized as the best PAHO teams during Dr. Gross's tenure as Representative. At the organizational level, Dr. Gross applied her management and civil service skills to restructure several regional projects with a view to strengthening provision of technical cooperation to countries. Furthermore, she consolidated mainstreaming on gender, human rights, and cultural diversity processes in the Organization and coordinated the restructuring and management of the Personnel Learning Board.
- ✓ **Use of negotiation and partnership-building skills to work with multiple partners and high-complexity topics.** Dr. Gross led initial negotiations with the food industry for improvement of popular high-fat products and other foods in Costa Rica. In the Dominican Republic, Dr. Gross was the driving force behind the creation of a National Tourism and Health Commission that liaises with the hotel sector and other entities. In Nicaragua, she promoted successful negotiations between the Government and the private sector to enable introduction of the rotavirus vaccine. At the global level, countries of the Americas reached governing roles in the GAVI Alliance for the first time and a greater sharing of experiences and projects was achieved, for the benefit of these countries and of both organizations.
- ✓ **Strengthening of health systems and services in Costa Rica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua, in close collaboration with these countries.** Highlights include work toward strengthening the National Health Authority, development of National Health Plans and of a family and community health care model based on the principles of Primary Health Care in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua, and development of a project for expansion and improvement of the primary health services network in Costa Rica. Dr. Gross supported the development and approval of the General Health Law and Social Security Law in the Dominican Republic and of the proposed framework of decentralization of health sector stewardship functions in the

country. She also contributed to the development of a health career framework in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

- ✓ **Promotion of population-wide access to medicines, supplies, vaccines, and health technologies**, steadfastly defending the universal, unrestricted right to immunization, and particularly to vaccines that help reduce child morbidity and mortality. At the country level, Dr. Gross helped develop policies for pharmaceuticals and medical technologies and review national lists of essential medicines and supplies. At the regional level, she worked toward strengthening regulatory capacity, the Revolving Fund for Vaccine Procurement, and the PAHO Strategic Fund for essential medicines and supplies and on the creation of a platform for innovation in health.
- ✓ **Internationally recognized achievements in health promotion**. In Colombia, Dr. Gross supported the incorporation of the Healthy Municipalities for Peace strategy into the 1993 Basic Social Security Plan and the establishment of the national Healthy Municipalities for Peace Award in 1997. For this work, she was awarded the José Celestino Mutis medal and the Escudo de Manizales decoration with the grade of Commander. Dr. Gross also introduced the concept of Healthy Municipalities to Costa Rica, with particular emphasis on chronic diseases, and later continued this work in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.
- ✓ **Support for national processes designed to harmonize and align international cooperation and strength the Ministry of Health**. In Nicaragua, Dr. Gross worked with the Ministry of Health to promote articulation of this process among the most vulnerable territories and populations, such as the Autonomous Regions of the Northern and Southern Atlantic and the Río San Juan Department.
- ✓ **Expertise in addressing chronic noncommunicable diseases, both at the national and regional levels**. In Costa Rica, Dr. Gross coordinated the development of treatment protocols and a multisectoral approach to chronic diseases, with special emphasis on risk factors, an issue she later addressed at the subregional level in conjunction with work toward healthy environments and the adoption of public policies. Dr. Gross was a key player in the PAHO team that mobilized countries of the Region for the United Nations High-level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases.
- ✓ **Strongly driven to sharing of experiences and good practices for cooperation and solidarity between countries**. Highlights include joint Haiti–Dominican Republic projects for control of tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected diseases such as filariasis and rabies, as well as joint community mental health projects involving the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Panama, and a project designed to strengthen the health services and

human resources education between Nicaragua and Cuba, with particular emphasis on priority territories.