



# Research for Health Newsletter

*A periodic, informative bulletin reporting on the activities of research for health KBR. Its purpose is to inform countries, partners, and PAHO managers and staff on the advances in the execution of PAHO's Policy on Research for Health. Please send questions and comments to [cuervolu@paho.org](mailto:cuervolu@paho.org). Twitter: @PAHOresearch*

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## HOT SPOT

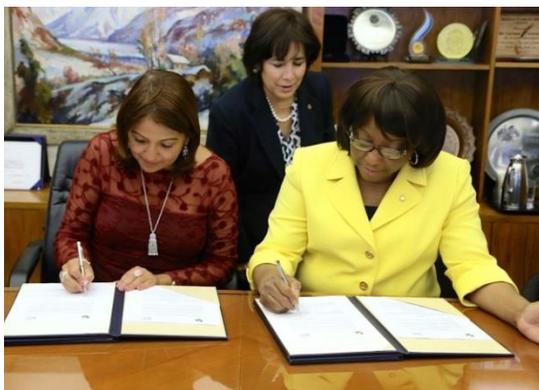
### Mexico announces new call for scholarships in health



On February 10 the Mexican delegation to the OAS hosted an informational session, announcing the new call for scholarships applications for graduate programs in Mexico. The allocation of the scholarships will be based on merit and will cover CONACYT approved programs.

It has been estimated that this will cover around 800 scholarships during the next quinquennium. As a result of the [agreement with PAHO](#), this year the call will include scholarships for graduate health related programs. Earlier, 75 scholarships were approved in collaboration with Brazilian universities through the same agreements. [Click here](#) for more information on this news.

### Cooperation Agreement Signature between PAHO and Coimbra Group de Universidades Brasileiras (GCUB)



The Cooperation agreement between PAHO and GCUB was engaged at a signature ceremony in PAHO headquarters, Thursday February 12th, at 5pm in PAHO Headquarters. Under the new agreement, signed by PAHO/WHO Director Carissa F. Etienne and GCUB Executive Director Rossana Valéria de Souza e Silva, PAHO/WHO and Coimbra promote PAHO/WHO's Policy on Research for Health through a series of activities designed to strengthen cooperation and exchange of knowledge related to research on human development, health, equity and

health systems strengthening. The agreement was preceded and followed by teleconferences with delegates from GCUB and academic authorities to discuss the implementation of initiatives to lead by example in the implementation of the Policy on Research for Health. Examples of such activities include promoting the use of research reporting standards, promoting better governance of research for health, establishing registries for research that allow universities to account for their research, and link it to products such as publications. Promoting knowledge translation processes, etc. [Click here for details.](#)

## Social Innovation in Health Initiative 2015 by TDR

The Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases hosted at the World health organization in Geneva provides technical and financial support to the Social Innovation in Health Initiative 2015 which is an international collaboration between various partners. The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Cape Town and the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University lead the implementation of this initiative. Through this collaboration they work together in search for novel solutions that have improved healthcare delivery in the Global South. This year the focus of the initiative is on infectious diseases of poverty.

The aim of this initiative is to grow the collective knowledge about social innovation in healthcare delivery through the identification of high impact healthcare delivery solutions, learning in depth about these solutions and sharing the knowledge across contexts and boundaries as well as bringing support to the creators of these solutions to grow their work and connect them with necessary policy makers and funders. To learn more about this initiative [click here.](#)

# RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

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## In the Countries

### Chile

#### PAHO's policy on Research for Health and PAHO Art for Research exhibit presented at Chile's Ministry of Health



The Office of Cultural Patrimony of the Ministry of Health in Chile will be launching a rotating exhibit of PAHO's Art for Research project. An inaugural ceremony will be held Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. The event will count with the presence of authorities from Chile's Ministry of Health and from PAHO Chile. The exhibition is expected to be on display for a year and complemented with rotating exhibits within

the National Heritage Officers Network of the National System of Health Services. Chilean doctor Paulina Taboada is one of the research champions featured in the Shaping the World Exhibit portraits of the Art for Research Project. For more information please visit [our Facebook page](#) or visit our [website](#). The event will also include a [welcome message](#) from PAHO's Director, Dr. Carissa Etienne.

## Dominican Republic

### The 1st International Conference on Research for Health Dr. Teófilo Gautier



To commemorate the World Day of Research as a follow up to the Bamako Declaration in 2008 the 1st International Conference on Research for Health in Dominican Republic, in memory of Professor Teófilo Gautier, a great contributor to science. The organizers included the Deputy Minister of Planning and Development

of the Ministry of Health, through the National Office of Research for Health, the University Rey Juan Carlos of Spain (URJC). The focus was the strengthening of the stewardship and governance of research for health in the country.

The conferences allowed exchanging experiences among researchers and organizations and highlighted the National System of Research for Health. The occasion was used to announce the launch of a National Research for Health Policy in Dominican Republic.

## In the Secretariat Strategic Partnerships

### Live webinars from Cochrane Canada



The partnership with Cochrane Canada continues to deliver live webinars that are recorded and enrich the broad collection of over 60 webinars that can be used as learning and reference material, for those interested in improving the use and production of research for health. Register for live webinars and consult recordings [here](#).

## McMaster Health Forum has been re-designated as a WHO-Collaborating Center



McMaster Health Forum has been a tremendous supporter to WHO and to PAHO in providing resources and technical cooperation to promote the integration of research findings with policies for health, health care and prevention. The Center hosts and updates Health Systems Evidence, a leading resource of evidence on health systems issues that provides quality assessments and abstracts in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, plus full access to many of its resources. Health Systems Evidence has been integrated into the open access [EVIPNet Portal](#) and is a key resource for evidence-informed policy development. Furthermore, the Forum provides training and technical cooperation on how to integrate research into policy and how to appraise research, with an emphasis in public health. The re-designation is an opportunity to further advance this partnership and give continuity to the global and regional efforts to advance PAHO's Policy on Research for Health and WHO's Strategy on Research for Health.

## Best wishes to Eleana Villanueva on retirement



We extend an appreciation and thanks to our colleague Mrs. Eleana Villanueva who retired from PAHO in February. Eleana brought the expertise in communication and management team and among other skills. She led with professionalism, prepared [research newsletters](#) since 2010, implemented the communication strategy and followed up on [PAHO partnerships in health research](#). We wish her a sensational retirement and thank her sincerely for her contributions to many of the achievements and progress with the Policy Research for Health.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

### 3rd University Internationalization Seminar at the OAS



On February 9-10 2015 the Organization of American States hosted the 3rd University Internationalization Seminar, jointly organized with the Grupo Coimbra de Universidades Brasileiras. The event focused on practices and strategies for

university internationalization; how to make universities more international. The event brought participants and delegates from universities from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States,.

Among the guest speakers were Prof. Marshall Tulloch-Reid, Director of the Epidemiology Research Unit, Tropical Medicine Research Institute at the University of West Indies (Jamaica) and Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo (PAHO). Dr. Tulloch-Reid described the collaboration that has led to the development of a cadre of epidemiologists for the Caribbean and that resulted in the creation of a Clinical Epidemiology Unit affiliated to the International Clinical Epidemiology Network –INCLIN, in 2009; the establishment of a train the trainers center for the Caribbean to expand courses on Effective Project Planning and Evaluation, with support from TDR/WHO, PAHO, and WHO-CC CIDEIM; the establishment of a Caribbean Branch of the US Cochrane Center focused on building capacities to produce evidence summaries and systematic reviews. These three PAHO supported efforts have spread out to most Caribbean countries and involved the training of researchers on this field. This was further supported with a training on peer review and grant applications supported by NCI/NIH, PAHO, CARPHA, and the University of St. Georges. Dr. Tulloch Reid showed the broad picture of how a systems approach is being used to strengthen every element of the health research systems to impact public health.

Dr. Cuervo spoke about the systems approach and tools being used to transform the policy on research for health into a reality in PAHO Member States, and elaborated on how academic institutions can benefit of adopting these tools.

## **INFORMATION PRODUCTS**

### **Pan American Journal of Public Health**

The latest issue of the [American Journal of Public Health](#) is available. Articles on Eye Health Series are published, including an Editorial from Director of PAHO / WHO, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne. In addition to original research articles, this issue includes a special section with the Spanish translation of an article published in the Journal of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

### **Equity Portal**

Launched in February the new "List of Equity and Knowledge Network Portal" was a collaboration between the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO / WHO) and the Rockefeller Foundation, with the goal of further improving the dissemination , access and

moderate discussion of issues related to equity, reducing inequalities , social determinants of health , universal health coverage, human rights and gender . In addition to the List of Equity contents, the portal also offers easy retrieval of information classified thematically and automatically connected to the Virtual Health Library (coordinated by BIREME) and the thematic [collection of literature published by PAHO / WHO](#). The List of Equity currently has more than 31,000 members representing 166 countries. To register for the list just [click here](#).