



Research for Health Newsletter

October – December 2015

*A periodic, informative bulletin reporting on the activities of research for health from the office of Knowledge, Bioethics and Research to inform countries, partners, and PAHO/WHO managers and staff on the advances in the execution of PAHO/WHO's [Policy on Research for Health](#). Please send questions and comments to cuervolu@paho.org. Twitter: @PAHOresearch
Find this Newsletter in our [Research Portal](#)*

2015 was a year of achievements and challenges for the Region of the Americas in terms of health events and promoting research. At PAHO/WHO, we are pleased to begin the year with satisfaction and high expectations to continue contributing to the health of our countries along with this particular bulletin that provides you with information relevant to our interests as a region. We hope you enjoy this issue that we gathered for you with good news for the region, resources, publications, conferences, and others.

Thanks for reading us and Happy 2016!

For the compilation of material for this newsletter PAHO/WHO technical areas, PAHO/WHO country offices, the ACHR as well as strategic partners for the advancement of the Policy on Research for Health were invited to send contributions.

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RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH

Consultation Meeting of the TDR Global Community Working Group. Cape Town, South Africa

The Consultation on the [Initiative for Social Innovation in Health \(SIHI\)](#) took place on 4 and 5 November, 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. Its overall objective was to generate an evidence base for the implementation of social innovation in health, to unite a broader global network of people interested in the field, and strengthen capacity. The consultation was organized by [TDR / WHO \(Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases\)](#) with other strategic partners and you can find more information by following the links provided.



Geneva Convening for Health Innovators and the launch of SIHI

A panel of role-players met in Geneva from 2 to 4 December 2015 to discuss the role of social innovation in health and to officially launch the Initiative for Social Innovation in Health (SIHI). The conference aimed to provide critical evidence on how social innovation can develop innovative solutions to entrenched problems. After the call in 2015, the [Social Innovation Project](#) selected 25 projects for in-depth research. The selected projects are implemented across 17 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. You can follow the project on [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).



Release of CITI program at University of Miami for OAS-PAHO Scholars



In support of its strategic alliance with the OAS, PAHO/WHO has partnered with the [Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI Program\)](#) of the [WHO Collaborating Centre for Ethics and Politics of Global Health at the University of Miami](#) to provide access to its training modules on producing relevant quality research. In this way OAS-PAHO scholars favored by [OAS scholarships program](#) will have access to existing and new information that offers the tools to produce impactful quality research that improves public health, equity, and development.

IN THE REGION

OAS- CONACYT – AMEXCID announcement of list of selected candidates of the 2015 Mexico Scholarships Program



The Organization of American States (OAS), the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) have selected the [fellows for the Program Mexico 2015](#).

A total of 333 scholarships were awarded to applicants from 19 countries, including the Central American nations, Haiti, Dominica, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela, and others. The scholarships will benefit professionals from OAS member nations to pursue postgraduate studies such as master's, doctorates, and specialties in Biomedical Sciences and Health, Public Health, Genetics, Engineering, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences, Physics, Mathematics, and Architecture at various universities in the United Mexican States. Information on programs, requirements, and future calls can be found at [OAS Scholarships](#).

IN THE COUNTRIES

Dominican Republic

The [2nd International Conference on Research for Health, Dr. Hugo Mendoza Tapia](#) took place with the coordination of the Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic and the support of PAHO/WHO on November 16 and 18, 2015. The purpose was to strengthen financing and training of human resources in relation to research. Among the topics discussed, Dr. Alma Morales, Representative of PAHO/WHO in Dominican Republic, emphasized the 14 Objectives of Sustainable Development (ODS).



Bolivia

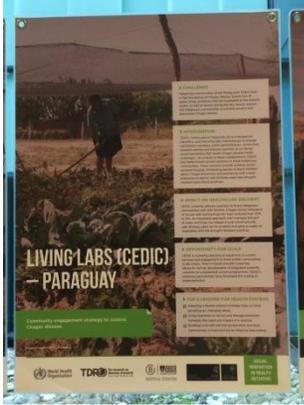
Assembly RIMAIS, December 2015

The Ibero-American Ministerial Network for Learning and Research in Health (RIMAIS) held its [7th General Assembly of Ministerial Links](#) in the days from 14 to 16 December 2015 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The meeting was attended by the ministerial links of Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, and Dominican Republic accompanied by the Technical Secretariat RIMAIS based in Costa Rica.



Paraguay

Living Labs an innovative proposal to control Chagas disease



As part of the [Social Innovation Project](#), 25 innovative proposals were elected across 17 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. Ten of these proposals were invited to participate in the SIHI's consultation workshop last December. Latin America participated with the project *Community participation strategy for the control of Chagas disease* by the [Center for Development of Scientific Research \(CEDIC\)](#) of Paraguay. This project uses a strategy of "Living Labs" where CEDIC as the laboratory coordinator brings together the community, public administration, academia, and private industry partners in the co-design of social innovation to meet health problems. A summary of the project can be found [here](#).

In the Secretariat

Meet the Newest Team Members

Maria C. Medina

Maria holds a Masters in Infectious Diseases and a Bachelor in Microbiology from the National Autonomous University of Honduras. In her country, she served as a clinical analyst and researcher at the Honduran Institute of Social Security. She also served as an assistant professor at the School of Microbiology of the National Autonomous University of Honduras. Maria joined the team of Knowledge Management, Bioethics, and Research in November 2015 to volunteer by supporting activities and projects for the advancement of relevant PAHO/WHO Policy on Research for Health Initiatives. Maria is senior editor of this newsletter! You can contact her on [LinkedIn](#).



Our Partners



Reporting guidelines included in the Trials Programme of the Global Health Network

Dr. Iveta Simera from the UK EQUATOR Centre joined Global Health Trials Programme's Writing and Publication Skills Month with a stimulating seminar entitled *Discussing Waste Research, Reproducibility and Impact*. During the seminar, Dr. Simera included a crash course on research waste, reproducibility in health research and how to use reporting guidelines. Read the full story on the [EQUATOR website](#) and follow the network on [LinkedIn](#).

Share your experience! Equator Survey

The EQUATOR Network: Have we helped you? Tell us your story!

The network is interested in knowing how useful their resources on equator-network.org have been for you in the professional and academic spheres. Share your experience by filling out a short survey or by sending an email to [Dr. Iveta Simera](#). All participants will be part of a prize draw to win a copy of the *Guidelines for Reporting Health Research: User Manual*, signed by one of its authors, Dr. Doug Altman. You can access the survey [here](#).



The [Cochrane Collaboration](#) shared a revision on the analysis for various authors: *Big Data and Health*. Additionally, the revision was in a recent series of publications that Cochrane collaborators considered opportunities and challenges of such large amount of information available.

The first document is an essay by Gerd Antes: [Big Data, Innovation, Personalized Medicine and co. – Are these the hallmarks of a new science \(ability\) in medicine?](#) The second is a comment entitled [Informatics: Make sense of health data](#), and finally a column by Julian Elliott: [Big data can improve health but first we need to build the foundations](#). The revision aims to promote the use and analysis of such information in order to make a better use as evidence in health.

Social Epidemiology

The REWARD Campaign

The [Reduce Research Waste And Reward Diligence Campaign](#) is a constant effort of its founders and members to improve research products. A [series of articles](#) was published by The Lancet in 2014, and the topic has been addressed in international conferences. Essays and articles continue to be published, one of the most recent publications being: [How can research publication be improved?](#) by Mona Nasser. Published in September 2015 in the BMJ Blog, this publication includes a brief review of the history of REWARD, analyzes the current situation of waste research, and also provides references for better understanding of the initiative. Additionally, Dr. Nasser is the author of the paper [Increasing the value and reducing waste in biomedical research: Who's Listening?](#), which provides an initial assessment of the series of articles mentioned above.

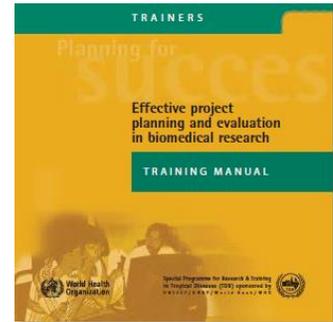


You can get more information about Mona and her work at the [University of Plymouth Portal](#) or by following her on [Twitter](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA – Stay connected

LinkedIn Group to discuss EPPE

[Effective project planning and evaluation in biomedical research](#) is a training program along with tools that can be integrated into the fields of biomedical research and health. The strategies used by EPPE have been reproduced successfully in several countries, and the most recent project took place in Suriname during the month of October 2015. If this topic interests you, please join the discussion group on [LinkedIn](#).



LinkedIn Group for Social Epidemiology in Latin America and the Caribbean

As a follow-up of the Social Epidemiology Workshop held in Antigua, Guatemala in November 2015 covered in our [previous newsletter](#) (June-September 2015), a LinkedIn group [Social Epidemiology Network in Latin America and Caribbean](#), was created so members could discuss and share information about social epidemiology in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, official meeting minutes of the workshop have been published and can be found [here](#).

RESOURCES - PUBLICATIONS

PLoS Medicine: Police Killings and Police Deaths Are Public Health Data and Can Be Counted.

A group of researchers from the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences School of Public Health at Harvard University recently published an article concerning a current and controversial topic in the United States. The article is entitled *Police Killings and Police Deaths Are Public Health Data and Can Be Counted* and discusses the relationship of violence and death for and by law enforcement officials. On the same issue *Radio Boston* offers an [audiovisual forum](#) to discuss the article and other public health topics.

BMJ Innovations



In October 2015, the most recent edition of the BMJ innovations journal was released, the issue includes articles and reviews concerning innovation in health. Some of the topics are related to Health IT projects such as the development of medical devices from concept to marketing, *Easy View Care Maps* as an alternative to the traditional medical letters, assistive technologies for ageing population, among others. This issue of the journal is available [here](#).

Speaking of development ... Publication of Human Development Report 2015

Ethiopia, December, 2015. For the first time the report is offered in a web format and in addition to a more dynamic approach, the report includes innovative information such as the one contained in Chapter 3: The changing world of work, with elements addressing the digital revolution and automation of the workspace. The report is available [here](#) in Spanish, English and French.



Volumes 37 and 38 of the Pan American Journal of Public Health



The November 2015 issue of the [Pan American Journal of Public Health](#) was released and includes original research articles in Spanish, English and Portuguese, such as *Public health and intellectual property in Cuba: a conceptual map*; *Post-introduction economic evaluation of pneumococcal conjugate vaccination in Ecuador, Honduras, and Paraguay*, and *WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: adherence and establishment in Latin America*.

On the website you can also have access to previous issues of the magazine, and a sequential collection from 1997 to 2015 via [Scielo Public Health](#).

METRICS Conference resources available

Resources from the recent [METRICS Conference: Improving Biomedical Research 2015: Challenges and Solutions](#) are now available on the Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford University website. The two-day event was organized around five sessions: Data Transparency and Open Science, Evaluation of Science, Research Policy and Incentives, Overall methods and Education and Engagement, each session containing different resources and subtopics.

CALLS AND RELEASES

Call for papers HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment in the Region of the Americas: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives

The **Pan American Journal of Public Health** announces a [Call for Articles on HIV/AIDS in the Americas](#) with expected publication date on December, 2016. The special issue will have the support of PAHO/WHO units for HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and Sexually Transmitted Infections, and other regional partners. The publication is intended to include the latest achievements and challenges faced in response to the HIV / AIDS in the Americas. The article also represents a valuable inter-American cooperation. The deadline for submitting manuscripts is **April 30, 2016**.

ABRASCO calls for papers about the program *Mais Medicos* for publication in scientific journal

The [Brazilian Association for Collective Health \(ABRASCO\)](#) in collaboration with PAHO/WHO calls for proposals on a special issue of the [Science and Collective Health Journal](#) on the topic "*Mais Medicos Program: Analysis and Perspectives*". *Mais Medicos* is a program that mobilizes doctors to areas where healthcare professionals are needed. The deadline for submission of manuscripts is March 15, 2016. While preparing articles, authors should follow the instructions available on the journal's website, and the proposals submitted to artigosmaismedicos@gmail.com.

Call: An overview of health inequalities in Brazil

[The International Journal for Equity in Health](#) has published a call for publications to include an issue about health inequalities in Brazil. The purpose of the supplement is to demonstrate the current breadth and depth of health inequities across multiple health outcomes. The work must comply with the rules of publication on research by the magazine [\(Click here for Author Guidelines\)](#). It has also been written in English and to comply with all standards of *BioMed Central*. The deadline is April 1, 2016, and the expected publication date for the special edition is late 2016.

For inquiries on the call, please email to editorial@equityhealthj.com.

Call for Abstracts: 4th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

The [Pan American Health Organization](#) has opened up a call to policy makers of health systems, experts or researchers from countries of the Americas to submit abstracts related to "resilient and responsive health systems for a changing world" of the [4th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research](#) to be held from 14 to 18 November 2016 in Vancouver, Canada.

The deadline to submit individual abstracts is March 20. [Click this link for details.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

16 - 20 February, 2016. 'Finding and Using Research Evidence to Inform Decision-making in Health Systems and Organizations'. McMaster Health Forum. Ontario, Canada.

Registration is open for this 5-day workshop targeted to policy makers, stakeholders, and researchers involved in learning how to find and use evidence in their work to reform, renew, or strengthen health systems and get cost-effective services for those who need them. Information is now available on Mcmasterhealthforum.org.

20 - 22 March, 2016 Annual ASPPH Meeting. Arlington, Virginia, United States.

The [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health \(ASPPH\)](#) offers its annual meeting as an opportunity for leaders, students, faculty, and staff of accredited schools and public health programs to create links, learn, and recognize common objectives, opportunities and challenges in public health. Register at the association website at the link provided above.

10 - 11 March, 2016. Workshop GRADE: Grading Evidence and Recommendations. Freiburg, Germany.

The Cochrane collaboration through its German entity is organizing a workshop on clinical guidelines, health technology assessment (HTA) and systematic reviews, for a better understanding of the GRADE methodology. The workshop will be given in German, and more information can be found [here](#).

March 31 - April 2. Population Association of America. 2016 Annual Meeting, Washington DC, United States.

The [Population Association of America \(PAA\)](#) is a non-profit, scientific, professional organization that promotes research on population issues. Its annual congress will take

place in Washington DC from March 31 to April 2 and registration is now open on their website. Information is also available on the [PAA Facebook page](#).

17-19 April, 2016. FORCE Conference 2016 Portland, Oregon, United States.

Cochrane Canada is organizing the [FORCE2016 Research Communication and eScholarship Conference](#) aimed to bring together a group of diverse people who are interested in changing the way academic and scientific information is communicated and shared. The pre-conference will be held on April 17, and the main conference will be also held on 18 and 19 April. Found more information at the link provided above.

10 -14 May 2016 HTAi Annual Meeting: Informing Health Care Decisions with Values and Evidence. Tokyo, Japan.

The Health Technology International Assessment (HTAi) Annual Meeting is organized by the [Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Tokyo](#), in collaboration with agencies of HTA in Japan. The meeting will address topics related to this year's theme: *Informing Health Care Decisions with Values and Evidence*. [Click here](#) for details.

10-12 June, 2016. 13th Conference EASE. Strasbourg, France.

After the very successful the 12th EASE Conference in Split, Croatia in 2014, the [European Association of Science Editors \(EASE\)](#) will host the next conference in Strasbourg, France. The main theme is "Scientific Integrity: editors on the front line," along with many other valuable topics. Information on the conference can be found [here](#).

20-24 June, 2016. The 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas. Miami, Florida, United States.

Epidemiological researchers, professors, and policy makers from academia, public health, government, and industry are invited to come together to the **4th Congress of Epidemiology in the Americas**. The Congress aims to showcase and promote the diversity of study, practice, and policy within epidemiology to improve the health of diverse populations. You can register for the conference [here](#).

27-30 September, 2016. 13th G-I-N Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.

Registration is open for the [Conference G-I-N 2016: Individualized Guidelines and Clinical Performance Measurement in an Era of Personalized Medicine](#)

With the growing national and international interest in precision medicine and the recognition of the importance of adapting clinical guidelines to meet the needs of disparate populations and complex patients with multimorbidity, the GIN meeting 2016 will be held at precisely the right time. The deadline for submitting abstracts to the conference is April 4, 2016.

This newsletter was made possible thanks to contributions by the Member States and the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research. It was compiled by the Office of Research Promotion and Development; Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo, Louisa Stuwe, Maria Medina, and Christopher Khanoyan.