



PAHO Immunization Unit's Measles Experts Interviewed on Univision

Octavia Silva, PAHO-Washington, DC

Dr. Cuauhtémoc Ruiz Matus, chief of the Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit, along with Dr. Desiree Pastor, regional advisor on measles and rubella, were interviewed by the television channel Univision to discuss measles, a matter that has recently received significant media attention. This media attention is mainly due to the recent outbreaks that have affected the Region, particularly an outbreak that was linked to the Disneyland theme park in California. The interview was televised as a segment on Univision's nighttime news on February 15. The highly contagious nature of the virus and the erroneous connection between the measles vaccine and autism, a fear that contributed to many people not getting vaccinated and becoming susceptible to measles, were among the topics discussed. If you would like to see the video (in Spanish), please click here:

<https://entravision.app.box.com/s/2h12c3e7lggajpvmhjxt5a2lzbwa8z2>

Global Vaccine Safety Study: Training Workshop on Study Procedures for PAHO Countries

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Location	Santiago, Chile
Dates	4 – 5 March, 2015
Participants	Principal investigators from participating hospitals and representatives from the National Regulatory Authorities, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and Ministries of Health were present. A total of 30 participants from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru and Uruguay attended the meeting.
Purpose	To train the group of researchers on the study procedures involved to guarantee a standard high quality data collection process all over the Region of the Americas.

Vaccine safety experts from the methodological committee of the study, along with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) coordination group, explained the details of the data collection process to the researchers, from identifying retrospective cases identification to generating a transfer file for analysis.

The main challenge this study is facing is to guarantee a standard implementation process that gathers high quality data, free from the bias that can affect the association between a vaccine and an adverse event. The workshop served that purpose by teaching the critical issues faced by the data validation, such as how to selecting probable cases, registering exclusion criteria, blinding the retrieval of information from exposure, adequately reviewing clinical charts and selecting the source of requested data, among others.

Participants had the opportunity to practice all processes on dummy cases, as well as learn how to use the electronic tools for data collection.

Facilitators from the coordination group could learn the details of each site and think about how the study implementation should be adapted to the particularities and variety of countries in AMRO region.

At the end of the workshop and thanks to participant feedback, some processes had to be refined and others were proven to be consistently applied. During the entire meeting, a sense of collaborative work was shared.

PAHO/WHO IPV Training Modules and Communication Documents

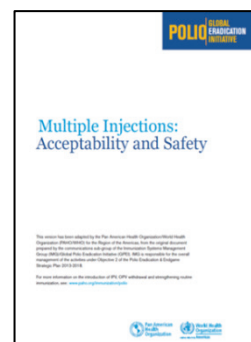
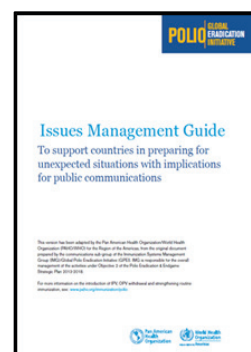
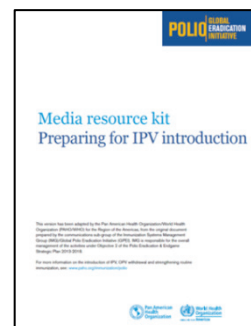
Elizabeth Thrush, PAHO-Washington, DC

This year, on a global scale, over 100 countries that previously only used the oral polio vaccine (OPV) containing the live attenuated poliovirus are introducing the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) into their routine immunization programs. OPV will gradually be withdrawn from all immunizations programs, starting with the type 2 component of the trivalent vaccine (tOPV). IPV is needed in every country to maintain immunity against poliovirus type 2 after the switch from tOPV to bOPV (containing types 1 and 3), which is tentatively scheduled to occur in April 2016.

To support regions and countries with the introduction of IPV, the communications sub-group of the Immunization Systems Management Group (IMG)/ Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) developed training modules for health care workers, as well as technical documents and communication materials for planning at the national and local levels.

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) adapted and expanded these training modules and three of the communication documents to support the countries of the Americas with IPV introduction.

The modules cover important topics related to IPV introduction such as rational for introduction, storage requirements, eligibility, administration, recording, monitoring events supposedly attributable to vaccination or immunization (ESAVIs), and communicating with parents and caregivers, and other important topics. The three communication documents cover issues related to safety and acceptability of multiple injections, preparing for unexpected situations, and a media kit for drafting local messages and designing communication plans and strategies around the introduction of IPV.





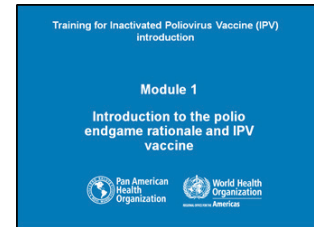
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(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

The PAHO/WHO adapted training modules and communication documents are available in Spanish, English and French and may be downloaded at the PAHO polio webpage: <http://bit.ly/1C6up3z>.

Note: Original IMG materials may be found at the WHO IPV Introduction web page: <http://bit.ly/18OrKjB>



Vaccination Week in the Americas 2015: Boost Your Power! Get Vaccinated!

Octavia Silva; Alba Maria Ropero; Hannah Kurtis; Elizabeth Thrush; PAHO-Washington, DC

Regional Communication Campaign

Vaccination Week in the Americas is almost here! The 13th annual celebration of PAHO's Vaccination Week in the Americas regional vaccination campaign begins 25 April and ends 2 May, 2015. This year's regional slogan is "Boost your power! Get vaccinated!" and is inspired by the idea that vaccination boosts immune systems and helps the body defeat more than 20 preventable diseases, turning those who get vaccinated into superheroes with special powers to defeat illness. Regional communication campaign materials include posters, stickers, and banners in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Creole. PAHO has also partnered with the Chespirito Foundation to create materials that feature the image of the *Chapulín Colorado*, a popular Latin American cartoon. A video message from PAHO's director will be uploaded soon to the webpage: www.paho.org/vwa.

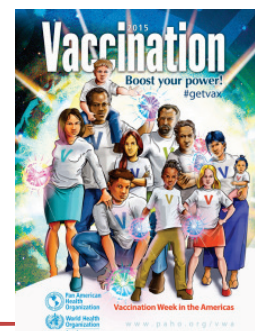


The social media component will encourage people to pair the hashtags #GetVax and #BoostYourPower with online photos of themselves posing as superheroes and holding #GetVax signs. We also encourage individuals to post photos on social media or upload them to the PAHO website (<http://bit.ly/1CmLeth>).



Regional Launching Event

The regional VWA launching event will take place on 25 April in Duran, Ecuador, an indigenous community outside of Guayaquil. Countries are continuing to submit plans for the initiative, but to date, countries and territories have reported plans to vaccinate more than 56 million individuals through a wide variety of campaigns. More detailed information on country activities will be included in the April GIN.





PAHO Immunization GIN Articles



(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

Colombia becomes the second country in the Americas to have an accredited laboratory for the quality control of syringes used for its immunization program

Nora Lucia Rodriguez, PAHO-Washington, DC

On 12 February 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recognized INVIMA (Instituto Nacional de Medicamentos y Alimentos/National Food and Drug Surveillance Institute) for having its laboratory accredited for carrying out the required tests to confirm the quality control of syringes used for vaccinations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Colombian agency is responsible for the health and regulatory surveillance of products and services for its citizens.

Following an assessment that supported that the laboratory of INVIMA met the International Standards NTC ISO / IEC 17025: 2005, the laboratory received its accreditation which was awarded by the National Accreditation Agency of Colombia - ONAC to perform physical-mechanical tests for syringes and needles.



Representatives from PAHO and INVIMA at the INVIMA recognition ceremony on 12 February in Colombia.

The recognition was given during the 20th anniversary of INVIMA, where the representative of PAHO/ WHO in Colombia, Dr. Gina Watson, and PAHO Regional Advisor in Washington, DC Bact. Nora Lucia Rodriguez, congratulated the Institute for this achievement.

PAHO considers the quality, safety and effectiveness of syringes used for vaccination of public health importance. Since 2005, the PAHO

Immunization Unit (FGL/IM) has had a quality control program for syringes used in vaccination in national immunization programs, particularly those syringes purchased through the PAHO Revolving Fund for vaccine procurement. PAHO's Immunization Unit also has provided training and other resources to INVIMA, as well as to other countries that form the regional network for the quality control of syringes used in immunization programs, in support of the accreditation process.