



PAHO's XXIV Meeting of PAHO's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Nathalie El Omeiri, Cara Janusz, and Cuauhtemoc Ruiz Matus

Location	Panama City, Panama
Dates	12-14 July 2017
Participants	PAHO TAG Members, 200 participants from 35 countries in the Americas, including national immunization program managers, national managers of epidemiological surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases, National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) presidents, PAHO immunization staff and representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNICEF, Public Health Agency of Canada, Rotary International, Sabin Vaccine Institute, among other immunization partners and experts.
Purpose	To review the regional progress on selected topics and issue recommendations to address the current and future challenges faced by national immunization programs in the Region of the Americas.

PAHO convened its regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) from 10 to 12 July. The TAG welcomed two new members: Dr. Cristiana Toscano from the Federal University of Goiás, Goiana, Brazil and Dr. Nancy Messonnier, Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases of the CDC. PAHO's Assistant Director, Dr. Francisco Becerra, and the Vice Minister of Health of Panama opened the meeting with welcoming remarks. Informative sessions and discussions followed, covering the following topics:

- Progress towards achieving the goals set forth in the regional immunization action plan
- Perspectives on the sustainability of immunization programs in the Americas
- Update on polio and progress towards the final phase of eradication
- Update on the yellow fever epidemiological situation, current immunization and response strategies in the region and global initiatives for yellow fever prevention and control
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccination in the Americas
- Progress towards strengthening immunization data quality and electronic immunization registries in the Americas
- Plan of action for sustaining the elimination of measles and rubella in the Americas
- Proposal for responding to pertussis in the Americas
- Monitoring inequalities in vaccination coverage in the Americas
- Strengthening the decision-making capacity of national immunization programs
- Strengthening management of the cold chain and supply chain in the Americas
- Update on the use of HPV vaccines in the Americas,
- Meningococcal vaccine use in the immunization program
- Improving access and timely supply of vaccines/syringes through PAHO's revolving fund for vaccine procurement.



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Under the leadership of Dr. Peter Figueroa (TAG chair), TAG members set out to review and emit recommendations for the issues raised. The TAG members acknowledged the contribution from the PAHO Secretariat to the meeting's success. The 2017 PAHO Immunization Award was given to Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras from Chile.

The 2017 TAG full meeting report is available at <http://www.paho.org/immunization/TAG-Reports>



Participants at the XXIV Meeting of PAHO's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, held on 12-14 July 2017 in Panama City, Panama. Credit: David Spitz, PAHO/WHO.