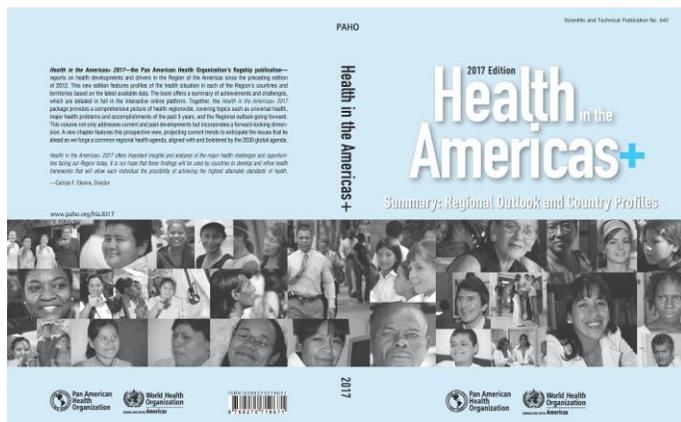


2017+ FLAGSHIP EDITION | PAHO releases *Health in the Americas+ 2017*

***Health in the Americas+ 2017*—the Pan American Health Organization’s flagship publication—** reports on health



developments and drivers in the Region of the Americas since the 2012 edition. This new edition features profiles of the health status of each of the Region’s countries and territories based on the latest available data. The publication offers a summary of achievements and challenges, which are detailed in full in the interactive online platform. The *Health in the Americas+ 2017* package provides a comprehensive picture of health region wide, covering topics such as universal health, major obstacles and advances in the past 5 years, and the Regional outlook looking

forward. A new chapter is devoted to this prospective view, and highlights current trends as harbingers of potential issues that may lie ahead. As a common regional health agenda is forged, aligned with, and bolstered by the 2030 global UN agenda (i.e. Sustainable Development Goals, such a forward-looking perspective will be increasingly important.

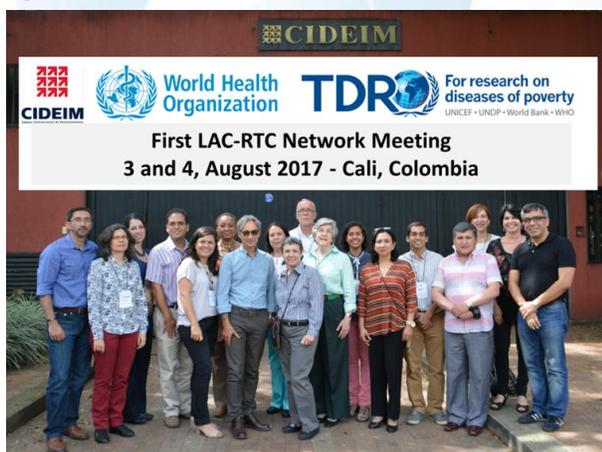
“Health in the Americas+ 2017 offers important insights and analyses of the major health challenges and opportunities facing our Region today. It is our hope that these findings will be used by countries to develop and refine health frameworks that will allow each individual the possibility of achieving the highest attainable standards of health.”

—Carissa F. Etienne, Director, Pan American Health Organization

RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

IN THE REGION

COLOMBIA | Network of the Latin American Center for Regional Training (LAC-RTC), CIDEIM



On August 3-4 TDR, the [Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases](#) convened a meeting at CIDEIM, the regional TDR training center for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-RTC). This meeting was supported by the **World Health Organization’s Program for Training and Research in Tropical Diseases** (WHO-TDR) and convened "champions" from partner institutions in the Regional Training Centre network. Leaders representing 9 academic institutions in 6 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean worked under the lead of TDR’s Director Dr. John Reeder, and TDR’s Manager of Capacity Building

in Research and Knowledge Management, Dr. Pascal Launois. The meeting had three objectives: 1) to review LAC-

RTC activities and share lessons learned; 2) develop the 2018-2019 work plan, including institutional training programs and goals for disseminating implementation research capacity and good health research practices in the region; and 3) define the roles of the different institutions that make up the LAC-RTC network and design a framework for inter-institutional collaboration. Participants shared experiences and perspectives and committed to joint work to create a community of practice that strengthens research capacities in the region. The leaders represented the following institutions from the LAC-RTC Network: National Autonomous University of Honduras; Greater University of San Andrés, Bolivia; Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador; Universidad del Valle, Guatemala; University of the West Indies, Jamaica; Universidad del Valle, Colombia; Universidad de los Andes, Colombia; University of Antioquia, Colombia; and CIDEIM, Colombia.

Guyana| Planning for success – training research teams on Effective Project Planning and Evaluation



Eleven teams with 35 professionals from Guyana attended the first [Planning for success: effective project planning and evaluation of health research \(EPPE\)](#) workshop in Guyana. The activity was coordinated by PAHO's country office in Guyana and the Department of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research with

support from the EPPE Training Center at the University of the West Indies and CIDEIM, a WHO Collaborating Center and TDR Regional Training Center. The EPPE training is a train-the-trainers scheme that enables research teams to be more competitive delivering quality research. In our [second quarter 2017 newsletter](#) we reported on the training of trainers project from Suriname in May 2017. Some of the trainers from this workshop are joining the TDR/CIDEIM and UWI trainers in Guyana to disseminate best practices and expand the regional capacities for training. The network of trainers from this TDR/CIDEIM/PAHO initiative established in 2007 (with training centers in University of the West Indies-Jamaica, Universidad Autónoma de Honduras, CIDEIM-Colombia, and Fiocruz-Brazil) has trained >400 experts in the Caribbean in these hands-on workshops. Each workshop involves collaboration with the teams before and after the event, as well as evaluations to ensure ongoing quality improvement. The event is also a testament to the leadership of PAHO/WHO Representative, Dr. Willian Adu-Krow, who is determined to ensure that Guyana seizes the benefits of research for health.

ARGENTINA | Ministry of Health publishes its Sept 2017 Health Research Bulletin



Ministerio de Salud
Presidencia de la Nación

The Ministry of Health in Argentina released the September health research bulletin with information from a trimester of activities to advance research for health policies in Argentina. This release includes a new scholarship announcement the *Dr. Abraam Sonis 2018 Scholarships for Health Research*. These

scholarships are for professionals working in non-profit institutions: hospitals and primary health care centers, universities, public and private sector, etc. Applicants should apply by **21 November 2017**. The bulletin includes news on the **Deas-Project Tutors program**, a strategy aimed at strengthening research capacities in Public and Clinical Health areas. You can also find information on the newest edition of the **Argentina Magazine of Public Health** with original research articles, reviews on public health, health interventions, epidemiological analysis, and more. Editions of the magazine can be found at: www.rasp.msar.gov.ar. For more information or to download the bulletin, click [here](#).

BRAZIL | PAHO / WHO, Brazilian institutions and Harvard University come together to discuss SUS



The PAHO/WHO Brazil office partnered with Harvard University to assess 30 years of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) and identify solutions and policies for the Brazilian health system up to 2030. This time frame was chosen because it coincides with the deadline for the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (a.k.a. 2030 Agenda). The assessments will gather evidence to inform critical decisions in overcoming the challenges posed to the Brazilian system. The study is expected to provide a summary of the effects of the SUS in the past three decades, and provide suggestions to improve the quality of public health in the specific

political and economic context of Brazil. The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 highlight the relevance of this study to other countries who may see Brazil as a case study for effective health policies. Read more by clicking [here](#).

BRAZIL | WHO Collaborating Center for Rehabilitation

A recently appointed WHO Collaborating Centre, the [WHO Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation](#) at the [Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Sao Paulo \(IMREA-HCMUSP\)](#), will host a two day meeting on 8-9 November, in Brazil.



This meeting will focus on rehabilitation data and research, and will convene leading regional actors in rehabilitation research to discuss ways of improving the availability of field-specific evidence and research. This meeting follows a two-day regional leadership summit on Rehabilitation

2030, a meeting to address the action points raised at [Rehabilitation 2030: A call for action](#) and strengthen leadership to improve rehabilitation services within health systems. Leadership, research and evidence are among the main foci of this call to action. For more information about the meeting, please contact Antony Duttine – duttineant@paho.org

Guyana | Strengthening Health Research Capacities

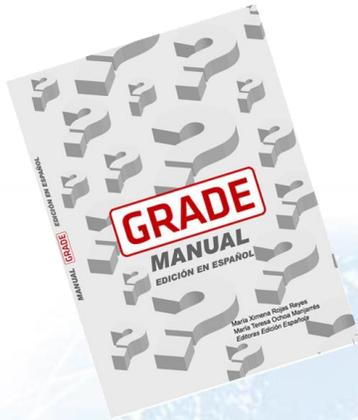


From August 28 to September 1st 2017, Dr. Luis Alejandro Salicrup, Officer in Detail with PAHO-KBR traveled with a two experts from Florida International University to Guyana to implement capacity building efforts geared towards strengthening health research governance in the country. They delivered the course **“Introduction to Clinical and Epidemiological Research Methods”** under the lead of Dr. Juan Manuel Lozano and Dr. Marcia Varela. This course aimed to advance knowledge on clinical and

epidemiological research among country officers. Dr. Salicrup also met with Guyana’s PAHO representative Dr. Adu-Krow and Ministry of Health representatives and technical officers, to discuss next steps in strengthening the country’s health research capacities and advancing the PAHO Policy on Research for Health within the Country. To learn more about full outcomes of the trip, click [here](#). This mission is being coordinated with other KBR and PAHO entities supporting capacity developments in Guyana.

COLOMBIA | GRADE symposium in Colombia and delivery of GRADE tools in Spanish

© GRADE Working Group



The Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the **Pontificia Universidad Javeriana**, partnered with the **Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact (HEI) of McMaster University**, to deliver new Spanish-language tools for the development of health-specific knowledge translation strategies, supported by the GRADE approach. Led by Dr. María Ximena Rojas-Reyes, the joint project resulted in trained users, and delivery of both the GRADE Manual in Spanish and the Guideline Development Tool (GDT) for the development of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG). The CPG includes the "From Evidence to Recommendations" (EtD) format, which promotes strategies to support decision-making in health such as the collection of relevant information for the development of CPGs and technology assessments. The results delivery symposium was held at

the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, where conference, training workshops, and the GRADE Working Group occurred as well. These free access tools are available at this [link](#).

HONDURAS | Research Ethics in Pregnant Women: Subregional Forum Developed In Tegucigalpa, August 2017

© Ministry of Health Argentina



From August 22 and 23, 2017, the XIII Central American and Caribbean Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine held the Forum on Research in Pregnant women in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The objective of the Forum was to review and discuss the ethical aspects of conducting research in pregnant women to promote their responsible inclusion in scientific research. Facilitators, teachers, and researchers from renowned Latin American institutions participated, including **Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU-6)**, Peru; the National Center for Maternal and Child Health Research, Dr. Hugo Mendoza (**CENISMI**), Dominican Republic; **Department**

of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research, PAHO / WHO, Washington DC; and Faculty of Medical Sciences, **National Autonomous University of Honduras**. In addition, representatives of six Central American and Caribbean countries presented an ethics-focused regulatory framework for studies involving pregnant women between 2015 – 2017. The Forum received a Meeting Fellowship Grant (reference 206541 / Z / 17 / Z) from the **Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR)/Wellcome Trust** in conjunction with the **Institute of Infectious Diseases and Parasitology Antonio Vidal**.

ARGENTINA | Technical cooperation research in maternal, child and/or adolescent health, Current and upcoming studies Year 2017

© PAHO/WHO



PAHO Argentina has provided technical support in promoting research in maternal, child, and adolescent health. The results included 76,483 subdermal contraceptive implants placed by the National Program on Sexual Health and Responsible Procreation (PNSSyPR). This group is also conducting a descriptive study of users of subdermal implants to learn about the acceptability of implants, as well as the degree of satisfaction with implant use. As part of health management and monitoring, The Maternity, Infancy and Adolescence Department of the Ministry of Health of the Nation launched the National Breastfeeding Survey to

evaluate the prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 months and 15 months of the child's life. In similar efforts, The Maternity and Childhood Department of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (CABA) intends to administer a study on the characterization of infant mortality, including the relative role of maternal and neonatal factors, as well as that of logistical factors such as transportation and healthcare availability. Additionally, The National Program of Integral Health of Adolescents (PNSIA) conducted a study titled "Approach to mitigate the external causes of adolescent morbimortality". It aims to reduce adolescent morbidity and mortality due to external causes (suicide, homicide and road accidents), and includes management, training, research, interdisciplinary and intersectoral coordination, and technical assistance for provincial programs throughout the country. As part of its participation in the WHO's multinational projects, Argentina was selected to participate in research such as the WHO Multi-country survey on abortion (WHOMCS-A) analyzing abortion-related morbidity in the country's medical facilities; and the Global Maternal Sepsis Study. To learn more about Argentina's technical cooperation on maternal health click, [here](#).

BRAZIL | Evidence-Informed Policy Network - EVIPNet

© PAHO Brasil



The Evidence-informed Policy Network in Brazil (EVIPNet Brasil) is a PAHO/WHO-supported Brazilian initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Health's Department of Science and Technology. The Network promotes the integration of scientific evidence in the development and implementation of health policies. Two EVIPNet Brazil Public Calls (in 2014 and 2017) were launched to select proposals for financing projects aimed at strengthening the Unified Health

System. As an outcome of the 2014 call, the Ministry of Health of Brazil published the Volume I synthesis of *Evidence for Health Policies*, a collection of 11 books that is geared towards health managers, and addresses issues relevant to clinical practice, management of health services and systems, and the development of public policies. For more information visit this [link](#).



ARGENTINA | Research to reduce harmful impacts of alcohol consumption

© PAHO/WHO



Per-capita alcohol consumption in Argentina is among the highest in Latin America. Worldwide, alcohol has been associated with nearly 6% of deaths and 5% of the burden of disease, with a loss of about 139 Million Disability Adjusted Life-Years. The Argentina PAHO/WHO country office invites you to read information about a multi-faceted study to promote public policies that reduce the harmful impacts of alcohol consumption and abuse. The study analyzes market factors and advertising information, as well as evaluates models of disease burden, to assess potential health interventions. To read more about the study click [here!](#)

BRAZIL | ABRASCO's APS Network and PAHO/WHO are delineating an impact study of the Mais Medicos Program on public health.

© PAHO Brasil



The Research Network on Primary Health Care (APS Network) of the Brazilian Association of Collective Health (ABRASCO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) established a joint project to evaluate the impact of the Program Mais Medicos Brazil (PMMB) in public health. The evaluation included workshops with leading researchers and experts in impact assessment to discuss the theoretical and methodological obstacles in the current debate on impact assessments of social interventions. A publication about the challenges of assessing the impact of public policies such as the Mais Medicos Program will follow. [Link.](#)

BRAZIL | Health professions, professional territories, territorial disputes and conflicting arenas: A comparative study of Brazil among selected countries.

© PAHO Brasil



To ensure a skilled, well distributed and appropriately resourced workforce the Ministry of Health of Brazil is working to develop policies in human resources that address health and ensure public access to qualified human resources. The Ministry of Health, in partnership with PAHO/WHO Brazil, promotes research to better understand the healthcare sector and its associated challenges. This is achieved through the network ObservRH, a

body that analyzes human resources in the health sector, and the Nucleus of Studies and Research in Human Resources in Health ([NERHUS](#), *Núcleo de Estudos e Pesquisas em Recursos Humanos em Saúde*). This will help analyze the regulatory processes of health professions, and focuses on professional jurisdictions, shared fields of professional practice, and the conflicts and territorial disputes resolved within councils, professional associations, and unions. This project will provide a comparative analysis between the health professions in Brazil and those in Thailand, Costa Rica, Mexico, Mozambique, Canada, and Portugal. [Link.](#)

IN THE SECRETARIAT

BIREME | 50th Anniversary Celebration

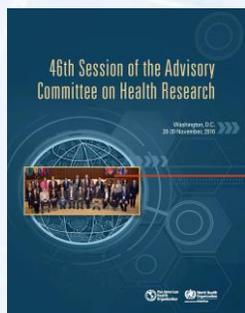
© BIREME



The Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences and Information (BIREME) is celebrating its 50th anniversary with the launch of its new “hotsite”. The **Hotsite** is a dynamic website featuring testimonials, event details, promotional materials, stories, cases, and a timeline of pivotal moments of BIREME throughout its history. PAHO representatives from headquarters and country offices celebrated with **video testimonials** about the impact of BIREME in the Region. The Center was created to expand visibility and improve the quality of scientific products in health in Latin America and the Caribbean and has effectively contributed to reducing the gap between available knowledge and healthcare management practices. The overall goal of the Center is to strengthen collaboration networks and expand cooperation in the development of services, methodologies and applications based on the Open Access model and Open Source. To learn more about the BIREME or

the 50th anniversary celebrations visit this [link \(Spanish/Español\)](#) or follow #BIREME50 on the [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

46th Session of the Advisory Committee on Health Research | website and report



Visit www.paho.org/achr/46 to access the multimedia, presentations, interviews, references, background documents, recommendations and the Report of the 46th Session of the Advisory Committee on Health Research. The meeting last year was part of PAHO's paperless initiative supported by the Department of Information and Technology Services. We used tablets and virtual platforms to access documents and presentations, and reduced printing by an estimated 19,500 pages as a result.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION | PAHO and Guyana Ministry of Health cooperate on national health research agenda update

© PAHO



The Office Knowledge management, Bioethics, and Research (KBR) and PWR Guyana organized a technical visit for Dr. Bendita Lachmansingh, from the Ministry of Health Guyana, to PAHO-HQ from 5–15 September 2017. The purpose is for her to gain knowledge about technical cooperation opportunities, and lay the foundation for Guyana to update its National Health Research Agenda and develop its Policy on Research for Health.

2017 5th Annual Meeting, International Confederation of ATOD Research Associations – ICARA



The 2017 [International Confederation of Addiction Research Associations \(ICARA\)](#) had its annual meeting at PAHO/WHO Headquarters on 28-30 August. Participants discussed, among other things, how to build on existing resources to enhance translation and implementation of research findings into policies and tangible changes in society. The agenda for the meeting can be downloaded from [this link](#). The meeting organizers included the President of ICARA Dr. Thomas Babor, and Dr. Maristela Monteiro from PAHO. As an umbrella organization for research societies across the globe focusing on alcohol, other drugs and addictive behaviors, ICARA brings together various research societies to promote complementary national and international research through professional exchange, collaboration and action. The 5th meeting of ICARA focused on building capacities for research related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, with a special focus on the Americas. The meeting was an opportunity to identify future collaborations and funding opportunities to strengthen research infrastructure in the Americas by linking ICARA efforts to other PAHO/WHO capacity development efforts and policies.

RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP | Photonovelas and Research Communication Methods to Reduce Health and Education Disparities for Low-Literacy, Dr. Sylvia Martinez



On July 18th, Dr. Silvia Martinez delivered a presentation on “Photonovelas (Latin American soap operas) and Research Communication Methods to Reduce Health and Education Disparities for Low-Literacy”, at PAHO HQ. Dr. Martinez is a bilingual speech and language pathologist, professor and researcher at Howard University, who has encouraged the use of illustrated stories to communicate and educate immigrant populations with low literacy levels on health prevention strategies. She analyses the use and impact of these “Photonovelas (photo illustrated-soaps)” on improved understanding about prevention and control of illnesses, including both infectious and non-communicable diseases, and their associated risk factors. Photonovelas are also instrumental in empowering vulnerable communities to take charge of their health education and develop independence in their health decision-making. The coordinator for this Research Interest Group was KBR Intern Ms. Sophia Comas, left in the photo. Check out more on her website [here](#).

PARTNERSHIPS

CIDEIM & University of Honduras | Course to Promote Good Health Research Practices in the Region



The International Center for Training and Medical Research, (CIDEIM), Regional Training Center (RTC) of Latin America and the Caribbean, partnered with the Scientific Research Unit of the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the [National Autonomous University of Honduras \(UNAH\)](#), to host the course "Good Health

Research Practices" (BPIS) in Cali, Colombia, from July 31 to August 3, 2017. This course, supported by the **Program for Training and Research in Tropical Diseases of the World Health Organization**, is based on the premise that quality and ethics must be integrated in all areas of research that involves people. Although Good Clinical Practices (PCBs) are available for clinical trials, it has been difficult for non-clinical research to adapt these requirements. Therefore, the BPIS course is intended to ensure that health research of all kinds is held to the highest standard, i.e. that which regulars clinical trials. The course was 3.5 days long, and participants were leaders of institutions in the TDR initiative who were motivated to decentralize the regulation and capacity building of health research. The participating institutions and countries were Greater University of San Andrés, Bolivia; **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador**; **University of the Valley of Guatemala**; **University of Valle, Cali, Colombia**; **Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia**; and the **University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia**;

RIM AIS & PAHO | Training course: Innovation in health oriented to social needs

© RIM AIS



Between October 16th and 18th, 2017, the Technical Secretary of the RIM AIS and its Technical Advisory Council, with support from INTERCOONECTA Program of the **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation**, will host a training course titled, "*Innovation in health oriented to social needs*". The course will take place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia and will be facilitated by Dr. Janis Lazdins with support from the **Fundación Mundo Sano**, the **Spanish Medicines Agency**, LAC countries, and PAHO/WHO. The conference aims to prepare officials from Ibero-American

health ministries with knowledge and skills on concepts of health innovation cycles, and enhance their ability to complete a survey prepared by the RIM AIS Secretariat on WHO's **Evaluation of The Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property**. The course has 8 components that cover a wide breadths of topics such as **research and development; construction and improvement of the capacity of innovation for health; manufacturing health products; strategies for improving the distribution and access to health products; promoting sustainable financing mechanisms; and monitoring and evaluation**. Dr. Luis Alejandro Salicrup, Senior International Advisor at the US National Cancer Institute currently on Detail at PAHO's *Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research*, will travel to Bolivia to attend the course and support the building of regional implementation capacities for the **PAHO Policy on Research for Health**.

CITI Course | PAHO partners with University of Miami to develop new course on producing quality research

© CITI Program

CITI PROGRAM Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative	
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PAHO - EQUATOR Course - Stage 1	
Required Modules	
Welcome to the PAHO - OAS - CITI Modules to enhance the value and use of research (ID: 17016)	
Importance of Good Research Reporting: Be Ethical, Be Thorough, and Make Your Editor Happy (ID: 17562)	D: 17016
Road Map to Reporting Guidelines: How to Find Them and Use Them (ID: 17563)	r Happy (ID:
Writing for Publication: Using Reporting Guidelines to Write up your Study (ID: 17564)	
Linking Research Planning, Knowledge Translation, and Policies (ID: 17565)	
Writing for Publication: Using Reporting Guidelines to Write up your Study (ID: 17564)	
Linking Research Planning, Knowledge Translation, and Policies (ID: 17565)	

One of the outcomes of the **PAHO-EQUATOR Network partnership** has been the development of a 4 module course "to enhance the value and use of reserch" that will first be offered to **PAHO-OAS Scholars** through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program). PAHO thanks the CITI Program and most specially Paul Braunschweiger, Pablo Vasconcelos, Viviane Francis, and their team, as well as the coordination provided by **Dr. Sergio Litewka**, international director of the **Institute of**

Bioethics at the University of Miami, and Dr. **Kenneth Goodman**, Director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Health and Ethical Policies at the Institute of Bioethics, who facilitated the incorporation of this course into the CITI Program platform. PAHO and EQUATOR Network are assessing options to expand access to this course to a broader audience and in other languages. The four modules of the course include (1) Importance of good research reporting: be ethical, be thorough, and make your editor happy; (2) Road map to reporting guidelines: how to find them and use them; (3) Writing for publication: using reporting guidelines to write up your study; (4) Linking research planning, knowledge translation and policies.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

PAST CONFERENCES

Spain| EU-LAC Health Conference and Joint Initiative on Health Research



© EU-LAC

In June 2017 PAHO-KBR's Senior Advisor for Research Promotion and Development attended the EU-LAC Health Final Conference and Joint Initiative on Health Research and Innovation (JIRI-Health), in Madrid. The **EULAC Health** 5 year project was sponsored by the European Union to establish effective multi-sectoral partnerships between the EU, and Latin-America and

Caribbean countries. A policy-oriented roadmap was set which took into account both the EU political framework for science and technology and PAHO policies on priority areas in advancing research & innovation in cooperation between these regions. The **meeting summary** highlights the participation of prominent institutions at the event. The 3 main goals were: **1) Discuss and explore with policy makers best practices to coordinate health research policies and funding between EU and LAC; 2) Establish a consensus roadmap for cooperative health research and set a future collaborative framework between the EU and LAC regions; and 3) Disseminate the project results to primary stakeholders to increase and improve EU-LAC cooperation in health research.** The recommendations included following-up on progress with JIRI-Health and other partners from the conference. In the EU-LAC Health Joint Call, 21 funding agencies from 19 different countries participated. Out of 46 proposals, 38 were eligible with 14 focusing on neurodegenerative disorders and 24 on infectious diseases. These involved 176 research groups and amounted to approximately 16.3 Million Euros; the funding commitment was 6.68 Million Euros. To learn more about the conference click this [link](#).

WHO/Cochrane/Cornell | Summer Institute for Systematic Reviews in Nutrition for Global Policy Making



WHO/COCHRANE/CORNELL UNIVERSITY SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS IN NUTRITION FOR GLOBAL POLICY MAKING

JULY 24-AUGUST 4, 2017

Cornell University's Division of Nutrition hosted the 4th annual **WHO/Cochrane/Cornell University Summer Institute for Systematic Reviews in Nutrition for Global Policy Making** in New York from July 24th to August 4th. The two-

week conference is a collaboration between WHO, Cochrane, and Cornell University to develop and enhance technical skills in systematic reviews of nutrition-related interventions and build understanding of global policy making, nutrition, evidence assessment and the challenges that may accompany these efforts. Around 40 experts, researchers, and professionals from around the world gathered to participate in the summer institute. The conference provided opportunities to develop skills and knowledge by working on systematic reviews, and built

© Cornell University

towards a broader goal of providing evidence on important questions regarding the role of nutrition in health. Knowledge gained from the conference will also be used to develop new WHO guidelines on nutrition. Overall, the conference aims to advance evidence-based policies to address the world's most important global health problems and reinforces WHO's role in systematically promoting evidence-based policy development to member states. Read the Cornell University press release [here](#). Updates for 2018 will be published in [this link](#). - The Four Summer Institutes have trained 59 nutrition experts coming from Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, USA, and Venezuela. It also resulted in collaborations with Cochrane Canada and Cochrane US/Caribbean. A lead facilitator for this workshop was Dr. Damian Francis, Co-Director of Cochrane Caribbean and past trainee of a WHO TDR PAHO partnership.

Colombia | XVI Annual Meeting of the Ibero-American Cochrane Network



The [Ibero-American Cochrane Network](#) held its [annual meeting in Medellín on 5-7 June 2017](#). The meeting was hosted by the Universidad de Antioquia and organized by Dr. Hector Ivan García and Dr. Xavier Bonfill. Notable guests included Cochrane's [Deputy Editor-in-Chief Dr. Karla Soares-Weise](#), [Clinical Editor Sera Tort](#) and author representative at the Cochrane Council, Dr. [Maria Ximena Rojas Reyes](#).

Cochrane Colombia organized a symposium with 8 collaborating or affiliated centers and the presentations included an historical account of how Cochrane began in Colombia as outlined by PAHO's Senior Advisor for Research Promotion and Development. PAHO was represented at the event by PAHO's Advisor for Health Research Management, Dr. Ludovic Reveiz.

CARPHA | Strengthening Household and community Actions for the Prevention and Control of Arboviral Diseases in the Caribbean



The Caribbean Public Health Agency completed its third stakeholder dialogue on 26 April 2016, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. With the support of **PAHO/WHO**, 18 participants with backgrounds in research, insect vector control, health promotion; environmental health, social marketing, information technology; and behavioural sciences were convened to discuss strategies for strengthening household and community action for the prevention and control of arboviral diseases. The discussions were informed by an [evidence brief](#), which synthesized the available international and Caribbean research evidence on the topic. Fourteen recommendations for accelerated implementation were prioritized by the stakeholders, based on the presented research.

A [summary](#) of the deliberations and the [Topic Overview](#) is available for those who wish to learn more.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Paraguay | XXXII International Scientific Congress of the Latin American Federation of Scientific Societies of Medical Students conference

© FELSOCEM



From September 19th to 22nd, the XXXII International Scientific Congress of the Latin American Federation of Scientific Societies of Medical Students (**FELSOCEM**) will be hosting a training conference in Paraguay. The conference will feature presentations and discussions from top health experts in the Latin America region on a range of topics

including the contributions of medical students towards advancing health research in Latin America, maternal health, bio-monitoring, public health in social conflicts, and complex humanitarian emergencies. A PAHO representative from the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research will deliver a master lecture and participate as a reviewer for an award. To learn more about the conference, visit this [Link](#).

Jamaica | 3rd Biennial Jamaica Statistics Symposium, Pre-conference Workshops



The Jamaica Statistical Society is hosting their Third Biennial Jamaica Statistics Symposium and Pre Conference Workshop Series. We are extending invitations to these activities. Topics that will be covered include best practices in data security, data management and analysis, safeguarding data quality, data use in governmental and non-governmental agencies, the value of data collection, development of data management plans, data management processes, legal framework for data sharing, developing data sharing agreements, data security plans and procedures, best practices in data analysis, measures for assessing data quality, assessment of data quality,

ethical considerations in data analysis, etc. More [here](#)

United States | Health Datapalooza 2018

The [Health Datapalooza](#) is the gathering place for people and organizations creating knowledge from data and pioneering innovations that drive health policy and practice – from industry leaders to startups, public to private sectors, academics to data whizzes, patients to clinicians, and everything in between. The conference, which has a strong international theme, is currently accepting proposals for speaking slots at the meeting, April 26-27 in Washington, D.C. Now's your chance to pitch your newest, most

innovative and effective suggestions for how to use health data for presentation at this elite conference. Presentations can be submitted to [one of eight conference tracks](#), including the track, "What Works Internationally," which explores international approaches to capturing, sharing, and using electronic health data, and the strategies and policies being adopted to implement new technologies. [Pitch Your Presentation>>](#)

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, October 10 at 5:00 p.m. ET



PUBLICATIONS

PAJPH| New open Access Policy & Application calls for papers on Men’s Health



OPS-PAHO REVISTA

©PAHO

The *Pan American Journal of Public Health* has implemented an open access policy; journal articles are now published under the terms of the **Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License**, allowing for broader use, distribution, and reproduction (as long as the original work is properly cited). The new license will allow the journal to be indexed in additional databases, improving dissemination and access to published papers. The journal has **published a Call for Papers for an upcoming special issue on “Men’s Health in The Americas: State of the Knowledge and Future Directions”**, to be published in 2018. More information at www.paho.org/journal. **Deadline for submissions: 19 November 2017.**

Global Evidence Summit 2017

The [Global Evidence Summit 2017](#) (#GESummit17) took place in Cape Town, South Africa with contributions of key PAHO/WHO partners (e.g. Cochrane and Campbell Collaboration). This newsletter highlights 2 posters presented at this Summit and others may be featured in coming newsletters. Click the images to magnify:

- (1) [The EQUATOR Network 2006-2016 : a decade of promoting and reporting guidelines to improve the health research literature. This poster](#) illustrated modules in Spanish and Portuguese that were developed with support from PAHO, and the fourfold increase in downloads from Latin America and the Caribbean following the launch of the partnership.
- (2) [The Summer Institute for Systematic Reviews in Nutrition for global policy making. This poster](#) highlights how an initiative to build capacities for systematic reviews relevant to priority WHO policy issues has made a global difference and informed WHO policies. Furthermore, The Four WHO-Cochrane-Cornell University Summer Institutes have trained 59 nutrition experts coming from Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, USA, Venezuela, and has resulted in specific collaborations with Canada and Jamaica.”

The Summer Institute for systematic reviews in nutrition for global policy making

Cassano PA¹, Peña-Rosas JP², Stover PJ³, Rayco-Solon MP³, Cuervo LG³
¹ Cornell University, USA; ² World Health Organization, Switzerland; ³ Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), USA.

Introduction

- Emerging disease poses a global health challenge
- Global policy-making in nutrition requires high quality evidence
- These needs, specifically to:
 - Improve the quality of evidence used in global policy-making
 - Improve the quality of evidence used in global policy-making
 - Improve the quality of evidence used in global policy-making

Methods

Data on the Trainers

Pre-Admission

- Advised modules to:
 - WHO and PAHO modules
 - WHO and PAHO modules
 - WHO and PAHO modules

Conclusions

- Clear and measurable impact on the production of research in nutrition relevant to public health
- Increased in published guidelines
- Training global column of scientists and experts in nutrition
- Increased in published guidelines
- Increased in published guidelines

Future Challenges

- Need standardization in research, including ability for non-empirical and
- System-level constraints
- Further development of and
- Further development of and

Materials and Methods

- 1. 1-week full-time training in evidence of
- 2. 1-week full-time training in evidence of
- 3. 1-week full-time training in evidence of

Acknowledgments:

World Health Organization, Cornell Nutrition, Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization

EQUATOR NETWORK

Ten years of improving the health research literature

Jennifer A de Beyer¹, Iveta Simera², Angela MacCarthy¹, Caroline Struthers¹, Shona Kirtley¹, Gary S Collins¹, Doug G Altman¹
¹UK EQUATOR Centre, Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford, UK; ²Global Health Network, Centre for Tropical Medicine & Global Health, University of Oxford, UK

Online portal

academic writing tools and resources

370+ reporting guidelines translated into 17 languages

Key resources in adding & soon

38000 visits / month

1.5 million total

Linked by ICME, Recommendations, COPE Recommendations, NIH Library, NHR Journals, Wellcome Open Research, and many journals...

Reaching the world

4 national centres
Australia - Canada - France - UK

4 international conferences organised

Collaboration with the African Journals Partnership

PAHO Collaboration
12x (2013/14) to 48x (2016/17) annual website visits from Latin America

Who we are

We promote excellent writing and the use of reporting guidelines by raising awareness, delivering training and creating resources.

Our goal

Every research article should be a clear and complete account of the research undertaken. Everyone should be able to understand and use the information in research articles without having to make assumptions, decipher jargon, or speak to the authors.

Reporting guidelines

These tools for authors of research articles help you to include every detail your readers need to understand and use your research.

Training

3 Week-long Publication Schools

4 Free online modules on the CITI Program, with PAHO, & translations in progress

800 People reached in face-to-face courses and seminars

18k Views of webinars & talk recordings

COMING SOON
Capacity building and Train-the-trainer

Software development

Collaboration with Penelope Research

Wizard
Find the right reporting guideline

COMING SOON
Beepie checklists & article templates combining all the reporting checklists you need

Research

research waste - quality of research reporting - uptake of reporting guidelines - meta-research - contributing expertise to reporting guideline development

COMING SOON
Quality of conduct and reporting of all studies from one research centre

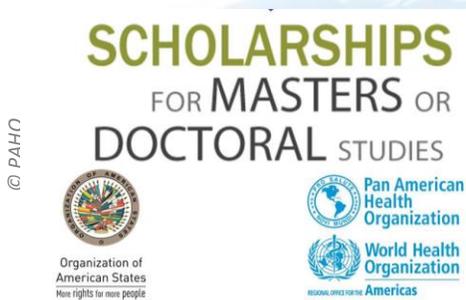
www.equator-network.org @EQUATORNetwork equator@csm.ox.ac.uk

CANCER RESEARCH UK, MRC, NHS, National Institute for Health Research, Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization, CHIEF SCIENTIST OFFICE, EQUATOR

Source: EQUATOR Network

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

PAHO-OAS | Scholarships for Masters & Doctoral students



PAHO and the Organization of American States (OAS) announced a call for applications for the 2017 Brazil scholarships, and the **deadline for applications is September 25, 2017**. The scholarships are being offered through the **PAHO-OAS agreement** in conjunction with the **Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB)** and support master's and doctoral-level work in health-related areas at Brazilian universities, such as nursing, nutrition, psychology, epidemiology, pharmacology, public health, and many others. This year, over 670 scholarships will be offered for post-graduate studies in Brazil. The

health scholarships are geared toward professionals seeking to use research for health to advance public health in the Americas. If interested, apply now. In the past 3 years >300 professionals from 38 countries have benefited of the scholarships for graduate health studies. More information [here](#).

Additional Resources

NIH | Funding Opportunities for researchers in LAC!



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a wide variety of funding opportunities open to students in the Latin American and Caribbean. NIH currently has **funding opportunities focused on research and training** from the **Global Infectious Disease Training program**. The Fogarty International Training Center also has **research and research training opportunities** for students in Latin American and the Caribbean as well as other International Bioethics **Training** opportunities. Funding opportunities focused on Global

Noncommunicable Diseases and injuries, Emerging global Leader awards, International Research Ethics, and more, are available. Below is a **list of current Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA)** offering grants for researchers in the Latin American and the Caribbean. **Click the blue links for more info on applying to the opportunities!**

- **International Research Scientists Development Award – Deadline: March 7, 2018**
- **Emerging Global Leader Award – Deadline: November 7, 2017**
- **Global Non communicable Diseases and Injury across the Lifespan: Exploratory Research – Deadline: December 14, 2017**
- **International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award – Deadline: May 17, 2018**
- **Fogarty HIV Research Training Program for LMICs – Deadline: August 23, 2018**
- **Tobacco Research on HIV in Low and Middle Income Countries – Deadline: November 1, 2017**
- **Clinical and Epidemiological Research on Chronic Disease in the Caribbean – Deadline: November 15, 2017**

WEBINAR | Complex Systems in Health



Webinar:
Complex Systems:
 An Introduction to the Relevant Concepts for
 Investigations in Health

Friday, September 1, 2017
1:00pm – 2:00pm (EST)

Presented by
Chad Swanson, DO, MPH

To participate <https://connect.asu.edu/hsoc>
 Enter access code: **456456456**

At the end of the webinar, participants will be able to ask questions and the presenter will answer them only for those registered at the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre to Advance the Policy on Research for Health, and the English version of this presentation, please visit <https://connect.asu.edu/hsoc>

For more information, please contact:
 Health Action, Assistant Director
 PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre to Advance the Policy on Research for Health
 Avenida Espana s/n, Ciudad de la Salud y las Ciencias de la Vida
 Email: hsoc@asu.edu

The Arizona State University (ASU) **College of Nursing & Health innovation and WHO Collaborating Centre to Advance the Policy on Research for Health Center** hosted a webinar presented by Dr. Chad Swanson entitled “*Complex Systems in Health: An Introduction to the Relevant Concepts for Investigations in Health*” and relevant to **PAHO’s Policy on Research for Health**. The **webinar took place on Friday, 1 September 2017** in English and Spanish. Access the recording by clicking **here** or visit the website **link** and search under the “webinars” tab. **here**.

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MCMASTER FORUM | Redesigned website supports system leaders



The McMaster Health Forum, a longstanding PAHO partner supporting the advancement of PAHO’s Policy on Research for Health, announced the launch of their redesigned **website!** Now users can more easily access the growing range of **products** and the key **resources** and **products** that support knowledge translation processes and the work of health- and social-systems leaders. Their primary gateways can help you to: 1) **learn how** to make decisions based on the best available research evidence; 2) **find evidence** through our own products and the best available sources of pre-

appraised, synthesized research evidence; 3) **spark action** through stakeholder dialogues, citizen panels and more; 3) **embed support** for evidence-informed decision-making, by institutionalizing promising and proven approaches; and 4) **evaluate innovations** in supporting evidence-informed decision-making. The Forum works with a diverse array of experts and organizations interested in addressing contemporary health-system issues. Social-system leaders seeking similar types of support can now access their services through **Forum+**. Explore the site to learn more about their full array of services and opportunities to **collaborate!**

© McMaster Health Forum

COCHRANE | Training Opportunities and Global Evidence Summit



The Cochrane institute has an archive of many opportunities to improve research for health in the LAC region! Live online **training opportunities** and information on how to conduct, edit, and read systematic reviews, are available. Cochrane Canada also has a rich **online archive of recorded webinars** created in conjunction with PAHO, such as webinars designed to promote finding research to inform policies, critical appraisal, ethics, communicating research findings, and more!

© Credit Cochrane

STUDENTS FOR BEST EVIDENCE | 34 Key concepts on treatment effects

© Credit Students for Best Evidence



Confusing claims about the effects of treatments – from drugs to diets – are everywhere. People need to know how to assess these claims. A list of 34 key concepts has been developed that people can use to assess claims about the effects of a treatment. This list has been developed by an **Informed Health Choices** project team. An example of a key concept is: ‘treatments can harm’. In recognition of how important it is that we understand these concepts, Students 4 Best Evidence (**S4BE**), an international blogging network for students, has launched a series of 34 blogs that explain each of them using **examples**. All of the

blogs will be written by, and for, students. You will be able to find all of the blogs on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. If you are interested in blogging, or would like additional information on S4BE, click [here](#).

PAHO Research team updates

Sophia Comas and Samantha Brew completed their PAHO [Research internships](#) in August and September respectively, making excellent contributions to the Organization. We are pleased to welcome Ms. Anna O’Kelly who joins the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research (KPR) at PAHO HQ in Washington, D. C.



Anna completed her Bachelor of Science degree at McGill University (majoring in Anatomy and Cell Biology) with a minor in International Development Studies. At McGill she was a fellow at the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy where she travelled to São Paulo, Brazil to conduct research on employment quotas for persons with disabilities. She then pursued a Master’s of Philosophy degree in Latin American Studies at Oxford. Her master’s thesis explored the role of health policy in shaping access to healthcare for sex workers in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is now a 4th year medical student at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She intends to pursue a career improving access to healthcare at a local and international level through effective health policy and inclusive clinical practice.

Thoughts or contributions on this newsletter? Send us a message at RP@paho.org

Quick links: [Research Portal](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Case Studies](#) | [Art for Research](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Subscribe in English](#) | [Subscribe in Spanish](#)

Contributions: PAHO technical areas, PAHO country offices, the ACHR as well as strategic partners were invited to contribute.

Editors: PAHO Research Promotion and Development: **Ms. Samantha Brew**, **Ms. Sophia Comas**, and **Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo**. **Proof reading:** **Anna O’Kelly**

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