



# Research for Health Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter reporting on the activities of research for health from the office of Knowledge, Bioethics, and Research (KBR). The aim of this newsletter is to inform countries, partners, and PAHO managers and staff on the advances in the execution of PAHO's **Policy on Research for Health**.

**October  
December  
2017  
N°VIII-4**

To subscribe to this newsletter, [Click Here](#) | Spanish Version, [Click Here](#).

 Follow us [@PAHOresearch](#) | [Research Portal](#) and [previous issues](#).

## Contents

- **SPOTLIGHT:** A selection of hot topics tailored for you
  - ✓ PAHO-OAS Scholarships | Over 600 professionals to strengthen health and health research systems
  - ✓ SOCIAL INNOVATION | community owned solutions that prevent Chagas disease
- **RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:** Find out more about the initiatives to promote Research for Health across the region, the countries and the secretariat
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Discover our new partners in the implementation of PAHO's Policy on Research for Health
- **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES:** Keep updated with the latest events in the region
- **PUBLICATIONS:** Broaden your knowledge about current public health issues in the Americas
- **CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS:** Learn more about funding opportunities to finance your research
- **SOCIAL INNOVATION:** Find information of key activities to promote social innovation in health
- **PAHO RESEARCH TEAM UPDATES:** Changes to the team
- **RESEARCHER OPINION:** Special space to know more about the researchers
- **IN MEMORIAM**

## SPOTLIGHT

**PAHO-OAS SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM | Strengthening health systems with over 600 scholars preparing to embolden the health and health research capacities.**

© PAHO



Since its launch in 2014, PAHO's alliance with the Organization of American States (OAS) and its partners in Brazil (the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities, GCUB) and Mexico (CONACYT - AMEXCID), have awarded 683 scholarships to professionals from 27 OAS countries, covering 215 postgraduate programs (doctorate, masters and specialties). This program supports the human capital for health and health research systems. PAHO encourages Member States to promote applications in areas of need, and to plan to absorb and retain the returning skilled workforce. This human capital can help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda). PAHO country offices can inform countries about the program and assist the planning for this new workforce to thrive and contribute to public health, evidence-informed healthcare and the betterment of health systems. We encourage applications from COMISCA and CARICOM countries. Learn more about the program [here](#).

## SOCIAL INNOVATION | community owned solutions that prevent Chagas disease.

© SI/II



**Challenge:** The Centre for the Development of Scientific Research (CEDIC) adopts a community-centred research approach, inviting inclusive participation of all stakeholders in the development of new context-specific solutions to address Chagas disease in the Chaco region. CEDIC recognized the need for a community-owned approach to tackle Chagas disease. Its inclusive co-design process allows for the development of an integrated pipeline of innovative product and process solutions.

**Intervention:** The National Program for Chagas Control of the Ministry of Health on Paraguay reported a decline from 30% to 12% in the infestation rate in homes in affected communities. Community leaders expressed their satisfaction with

CEDIC's approach and were pleased that CEDIC continues to understand their needs and to work on more projects with them. For more information click [here](#).

## RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

### IN THE REGION

#### ARGENTINA | Preparing to deliver a National Health Research Agenda



Argentina is advancing with the development of a national research agenda. The [Ministry of Health of the Nation and PAHO/WHO organized a meeting](#) in Buenos Aires in November 2017, in which national and international experts convened with provincial leaders to discuss and agree on the different available

options to define their research priorities as they define a national agenda on research for health. The provincial delegates also participated in a workshop seeking consensus on the types of research needed to address their public health priorities. Contributions to this meeting were made by PAHO's Assistant Director, Dr. Francisco Becerra, and PAHO's Advisor for Health Research Management, Dr. Ludovic Reveiz. Click [here for the press release](#).

#### ARGENTINA | Province of Jujuy discusses its Priorities on research for health



The Argentinian province of Jujuy organized in November 2017 the [First Public Health Research Conference](#) with support from PAHO/WHO. The conference was an opportunity to discuss priority research topics, the use of information technologies, tools and resources to access scientific literature, and other aspects. The meeting also sought to strengthen knowledge management capacities and promote evidence-informed health policies for Jujuy.

## BRAZIL | SRVI Forum promotes research on violence against women and children, and convenes >500 participants from around the globe



The [Sexual Violence Research Initiative](#) (SVRI) was created in 2003 to promote high quality research on sexual violence in resource-poor settings. Over the years its scope expanded to multiple forms of violence against women and against children. The [SVRI Forum](#) is

held bi-annually and has become the largest international conference showcasing research and innovation in the field. PAHO co-sponsored the SVRI Forum 2017 which was the SVRI's fifth global conference and the first held in the Americas. The SVRI Forum 2017 brought together record 535 participants from all over the globe, including researchers, funders, policy makers, service providers, practitioners and survivors who are working to address violence against women, and against children. The diverse program included 345 presentations, pre-conference workshops and side events. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) had 107 participants including delegates from ministries of Health, and PAHO focal points from 10 LAC countries who presented their work at the Forum. A delegate noted *"The SVRI Forum just keeps getting better and better"*. PAHO/WHO's Family Violence Regional Advisor, Dr. Alessandra Guedes, Co-Chaired the SVRI's Coordinating Group and celebrated how much the SVRI Forum has grown. In her closing remarks, Dr. Guedes highlighted the growth of a new generation of passionate and well-prepared researchers who will continue advancing the knowledge on how to prevent and respond to violence against women and children. For more information about the SVRI Forum, click [here](#).

## BRAZIL | Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) adopted by the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries (CPLP)

Research Fairness Initiative - making research partnerships work for everyone



The Ministers of Health of the CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries / Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa) unanimously adopted a Declaration on 26 October 2017, in Brasilia, encouraging member states to adopt the [Research Fairness Initiative \(RFI\)](#) as mechanism to govern and improve research collaboration between CPLP institutions and countries. For further information about the Declaration: please contact Prof Paulo Ferrinho [pferrinho@ihmt.unl.pt](mailto:pferrinho@ihmt.unl.pt) or Dr António Carvalho [amcarvalho@ces.uc.pt](mailto:amcarvalho@ces.uc.pt) at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and

Hygiene in Portugal. PAHO and COHRED are discussing collaborations to expand the coverage of the RFI in the Americas.

## BRAZIL | 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Commission of Ethics in Research



After its creation in 1996, the National Commission for Research Ethics (CONEP) celebrates its twentieth year in 2017. In this period, the Commission has been working to define norms and guidelines for the protection of research participants, besides regulating and guiding the actions of the most 800 Committees of Ethics in Research in Brazil. Along with this celebration, CONEP also celebrates Brazil's Platform 5<sup>th</sup> year,

which is the national and unified database of research records with human beings, with more than 500,000 users. Since 2012, PAHO/WHO Brazil, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, has promoted the strengthening of innovation and regulation in Health, with emphasis on the management and incorporation of technologies and ethics in research, collaborating in the improvement of processes and reflections on this issue. Read more by clicking [here](#) and visit [plataformabrasil.saude.gov.br](http://plataformabrasil.saude.gov.br)

## BRAZIL | Using research to strengthen the Unified Health System (SUS) as it approaches its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary



© PAHO Brasil

PAHO/WHO Brazil has been contributing to the technical debate in order to strengthen the Unified Health System. Under this circumstance, a seminar named “*The Unified Health System Scenarios for Sustainability*” was held on December fourth. Preliminary results of the National Research for the Municipal Health Manager Profile Construction were presented as well as the study of the perception of Brazilians strategic actors on SUS as an outcome from the Technical cooperation between PAHO/Who Brazil and the Ministry of Health. The discussions covered scenarios drawn from scientific results of researchers from Imperial College UK and Fiocruz, who presented international studies about the economic crisis effects and the impact of austerity policies on the population health conditions. This was the second seminar organized by PAHO/WHO Brazil to provoke a reflection about the 30 years of the SUS, which is about to be celebrated in 2018. Such presentations will be available [here](#).

## BRAZIL | Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB) meets with its partners to further the internationalization of its 82 universities



The Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities held its X General Assembly and IX Internationalization Seminar. During the Seminar, a delegate from PAHO highlighted how the GCUB agreement has benefited the region and how the resources specifically developed for PAHO-OAS Scholars and staff can benefit GCUB universities, providing ideas of the way forward in this collaboration, and specific examples with data and stories illustrating the impact of the program. GCUB has grown to include 82 Brazilian Universities. The event was hosted by the Universidad Federal de Mato (UFMT) Grosso, Presided by the Chancellor of the University of Piauí, the Chancellor of the UFMT, and the GCUB Secretariat. The special guests included the new Director of Education and Development of OAS and other high level delegates (e.g. Executives from Universities, Education authorities, Development authorities, Health authorities, and diplomats) from 26 more countries, including: Angola, Algeria, Barbados, Bhutan, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, United States, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Jamaica, Italy, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

## PAHO BRAZIL| Scientific Technical Exhibition



Tocantins organizes its [First Exposaué](#) on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This technical scientific exhibition of the innovative experiences developed by the Secretary of Health of the State of Tocantins. This is a research initiative resulting from Technical Cooperation between Tocantins’s state government and PAHO/WHO Brazil. The objective is to present and give visibility to health actions and services within the Unified Health System, with the purpose of broadening horizons and guiding public policies in Tocantins, through the results of the innovative experiences produced through the technical cooperation partnership. Master Degree’s dissertations on Collective Health, with emphasis on professional surveillance, and also results PAHO/WHO Brazil’s cooperation will be presented on this Scientific Technical Exhibition. For more information click [here](#).

## PANAMA| New National Law on Research for Health



The Government of the Republic of Panama has issued its regulation of research for health, the legal framework and other reference documents including the Health Research Law of Panama approved by the Cabinet Council in late 2017 after citizen consultations. The law promotes research for health and defines the governance and relevant regulations. For more information, click [here](#). The national authorities

requested PAHO's technical cooperation to align these regulations with international mandates, legislation, policies and frameworks (e.g. PAHO Policy on Research for Health) and the UN Agenda 2030 (also known as the Sustainable Development Goals).

## IN THE SECRETARIAT

### BIREME| Promoting the use of research evidence in health decision making



BIREME [held a workshop](#) to assess how to best enhance its array of resources in support of the integration of research evidence into public health decisions and policies. Building on the experience that BIREME accrued in the past 15 years with knowledge translation and evidence-based health care, participants explored options to support the

use of research evidence in policy making, new developments and opportunities, and strategic alliances to enhance Bireme's added value. The workshop took place in Sao Paulo on December 6-7, 2017 and was led by BIREME's Director, Dr. Diego González Machín, and PAHO's Assistant Director, Dr. Francisco Becerra. The meeting included guests, BIREME's staff, and advisors from PAHO's Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research (Dr. Ludovic Reveiz and Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo). A series of recommendations were made to BIREME on activities, products and information services to promote access, use and application of evidence, some of which were included in the summary in [BIREME's press release](#).

### RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP | Dr. Elmer Huerta guest speaker at PAHO's Research Interest Group (RIG)



The Director of the Cancer Preventorium at the Washington Cancer Institute at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington D.C., Dr. Elmer Huerta was the guest speaker at PAHO's Research Interest Group. Dr Huerta talked about how his daily radio show "*El Consultorio Comunitario*" has built a large audience among Latinos in the Washington D.C area by providing evidence-based guidance on prevention for common types of cancer (e.g. Breast, Colon, Lungs). He highlighted the importance of knowledge translation and getting public on board in the

policy making processes to overcome its barriers and lead to effective changes and impact.

## WHO GLOBAL OBSERVATORY ON HEALTH RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT | New Data



WHO’s Global Observatory on Health Research and Development added new data and graphics in December and is becoming an authoritative resource for data and analyses on R&D for health. The Observatory expanded its interactive visualizations on research grants, clinical trials, funding for infectious diseases, expenditures on health R&D and health researchers capacity. Users can interact with the filters to analyze funding, countries, recipients, etc. For example, a couple of clicks on the clinical trials visualization illustrates the

evolution of phase 2 trials between 1999 and 2016 on non-communicable diseases, such as breast cancer, or on infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS or dengue. Visualizations can also be explored by condition and other variables to identify gaps and developments in product pipelines, investments, research areas, etc. More [here](#).

## PARTNERSHIPS

**Mc Master Health Forum | Social Systems Evidence a collection of research evidence to address the SDGs.**



With a growing international focus on evidence-informed policymaking across governments, and on achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, Forum+ has launched the beta version of [Social Systems Evidence](#) to better support policymakers, stakeholders and researchers who want to access the best available research evidence in a timely manner. Social Systems Evidence will soon be the world’s most comprehensive, continuously updated repository of research evidence about the programs, services and products available in 16 government sectors and program areas (i.e., community and social services, culture and gender, economic development and growth, education, transportation), as well as the governance, financial and delivery arrangements within which these programs and services are provided, and the implementation strategies that can help to ensure that these programs and services get to those who need them. To access and get more information, please click [here](#).

**FELSOCEM | A new generation of medical researchers and research users**



© FELSOCEM

The Latin American Federation of Scientific Societies of Medicine Students FELSOCEM held its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting and International Scientific Congress in Asunción, Paraguay, on September 2017. PAHO’s Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics & Research was represented by Dr. Diego González Machín and by Dr Alejandro Salicrup. Dr. González showed the audience how medical students can use Bireme resources to inform decisions for health, and options to contribute to knowledge. Dr. Salicrup discussed: (1) Public Health Current Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean, (2) PAHO as Catalyzer for Research for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean and (3)

The Role of Research in Advancing Medicine and Public Health in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both highlighted through all the presentations the opportunities available to Member States to strengthen their health

systems, such as the [OAS-PAHO scholarships](#), training workshops, [internships](#), short courses, [workshops](#) and various other strategy resources relevant to the implementation of PAHO's Policy on Research for Health. Special attention was put on the recent national Policy for Health Research issued in Paraguay, the input that KBR already provided and possible technical cooperation that might be needed to advance its National Health Research System and to eventually develop a National Health Research Agenda (NHRA) in Paraguay.

## OAS | Scholarships allocated for health graduate programs in Mexico and Brazil



The Organization of American States (OAS) hosted two selection committees during the last quarter of 2017. The first one focused on allocating the installation scholarships for the second 2017 cohort of scholars from the CONACYT-OAS-PAHO-AMEXCID program and benefits foreign applicants from OAS Member States who are to complete postgraduate studies in Mexico (including health) and the [results have now been published](#).



The second selection committee focused on allocating the scholarships to study masters and doctorates in Brazil. The selection Committee for this seventh edition of the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program met with delegates from PAHO to discuss the allocation of scholarships for health graduate programs (master or doctoral) in Brazilian universities, and the results [have now been published](#). With these two selection processes more than 130 scholars will be supported to complete their graduate studies in health sciences and contribute to the strengthening of health systems and research for health, in the Americas.

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

## PAST CONFERENCES

### PAHO-WHO | building the human resources to achieve universal health care

By Dr. Silvia Cassiani, Advisor of Nursing and Development of Health Technical Personnel, PAHO / WHO - HSS / HR



On December 5th and 6th, 2017, in Brasilia - Brazil, PAHO / WHO, with the collaboration and support of the Health Ministry of Brazil, organized the "II Regional Technical Meeting on Inter-professional Education in Health: Improving capacity of human resources to achieve universal health", with the health and education ministry's representatives participation from different countries on the region, to stimulate the debate about inter-professional education (EIP) and to explore the topic of the EIP and practical experiences for its implementation. For more information, click [here](#).

## BIREME | III Session of the Scientific Committee

© BIREME



The [III Session of the Scientific Committee](#) of BIREME took place on December 7 and 8, when the current situation of the Center, its main products and services and its work plan for 2018-2019 were presented. The event was attended by Francisco Becerra, Deputy Director of PAHO / WHO, who welcomed the participants and

outlined the objectives of the meeting, consisting of giving recommendations to the director on BIREME's technical cooperation and the search for opportunities to strengthen the positioning of the center in Latin America and the Caribbean. Three main topics were discussed and analyzed: (a) "BIREME TODAY", The products and services of BIREME as technical cooperation of PAHO / WHO focusing on the need and benefits of health information for the operation of work and decisions; (b) What is it that BIREME can do that no other institution does? What is its added value? How to expand your work at the country level or for South-South cooperation?; (c) Potentialities of the role of BIREME in the Strategic Plan of PAHO / WHO and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): How to make a link with the Sustainable Agenda for Health for the Americas and the scope of the SDGs. The Committee provided insights for future scientific meetings. The Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information or BIREME was founded in Sao Paulo in 1967 as the "Biblioteca Regional de Medicina", a specialized center of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO).

## RIMAIS-AECID | Innovations to address social priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

© RIMAIS



The Red RIMAIS and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) met with health authorities and other stakeholders to discuss the *Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights* (GSPOA) adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2008. The objective was to develop a cadre of officers that support an assessment by RIMAIS of the GSPOA. PAHO'S Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics, and Research provided technical assistance to identify capacities to comply with GSPOA in LAC particularly in the area of communicable and vector

borne diseases. The presentation covered various topics including PAHO's Policy on Research for Health, WHO's prequalification process, technology transfer pertaining to public health, WHO's Blueprint for action to prevent epidemics, and PAHO's Strategic Fund and the Vaccine Revolving Fund.

## PAHO-HSS | The I-SAT Instrument: A guide through the path to social accountability



The Social Accountability of Medical Education team participated in the [Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health](#). This conference was supported by the World Health Organization and involved participation of >1000 international delegates from different sectors such as education, health, labor/employment, and finance. On behalf of the steering group, Dr. Jose Francisco García Gutiérrez, Advisor of Human Resources in Health presented at the panel on "Socially Accountable Education: meeting priority needs" where he discussed the aligning of health professionals education to community health needs. In addition, Dr. Noora Alhajri who interns also at the Department of Health Systems and Services, presented a [poster about the "Indicators of Social Accountability Tool"](#). The Indicators of Social Accountability Tool (I-SAT) is about directing education, research and service activities toward addressing the priority health concerns of the population, and especially underserved communities. Social accountability in health education is gaining traction internationally as a mechanism for combatting health inequities and advancing universal health. The I-SAT instrument will be useful to: (1) promote the orientation of education, research and service delivery to meet population priority health needs linked with health system policies, (2) Recruit students and faculty bodies that reflect the ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic diversity of the population served, (3) Support advocacy at the political leadership level for the adoption of health and academic policies. This tool will be published at beginning of next year 2018.

## PAHO-WHO | Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in Dublin



In November 2017, members of PAHO's Department of Health Systems and Services (HSS) and PAHO/Brazil participated in the Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources in Dublin, Ireland and sponsored a side event on "Human Resources for Universal Health in the Americas: Regional and Countries Perspectives." During the first part of this event, James Fitzgerald, Director of HSS, presented PAHO's new [Strategy on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage, approved by Member States in September 2017](#). The strategy will guide national policies on human resources for health, taking into account that the availability, accessibility, acceptability, relevance, and competence of human resources in the health sector are key components for advancing towards universal health. *"When working with the countries of the region to implement the Strategy on Universal Health, we found two main barriers: lack of health financing and that the countries that wanted to expand access to primary health care based in the principals of Universal Health do not have sufficient human resources for health (...). There needs to be an inter-sectoral action between health, education and labour to essentially govern and facilitate the process by which qualified human resources for health are incorporated and retained into health services, wherever they are needed"*, explained Fitzgerald. The discussion offers a basis for the development of an action plan for the implementation of the Strategy, ensuring that national, sub-regional and regional plans are aligned. Some of the priority areas for the Region discussed during the Forum include: work force planning to strengthen primary health care, strengthening national regulatory capacity for accreditation of human resources and health services, social accountability of health training institutions, mobility and migration management. For more information, you can click [here](#).

## Ecuador | Regional Meeting for Universal Health: PAHO director calls for building alliances to leave no one behind on the road to universal health, in Ecuador

©PAHO



Expanding access and health coverage to the entire population will improve health and development, said Pan American Health Organization Director Carissa F. Etienne at the opening of a [Regional Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#). [Universal health means](#) that all people, especially those in a situation of special vulnerability, no matter where they live, have access to effective and quality health care, and are protected from financial difficulties when they need health care. Etienne said "*The generation of alliances is key to achieve universal health without leaving anyone behind*", and called to "*empower people and communities*" to be part of the change necessary to achieve health for all. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 30% of the population does not have access to health care for economic reasons and 21% do not seek care due to geographical barriers. "*Increasing the number of people with coverage and access to health will generate positive results in the health of the population, but also economic progress and prosperity*" said Etienne, highlighting the need to "*look for innovative solutions to respond in the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*" To know more about the conference, visit this [link](#). Find here a clip on Universal health in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### PAN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH: now includes a DOI for its articles

©PAHO



The [Pan American Journal of Public Health](#) is now including a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) in published articles thus offering a permanent link to the full-text

article and facilitating the retrieval and citation of manuscripts. The Journal's articles are **open access** and are distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License](#) that permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. Accepted manuscripts are published following a **continuous publication** model; manuscripts are published on line in the journal web site and sent to the scientific databases continuously, instead of monthly. To receive email alerts (usually 2 emails per month) with information on call for papers and recently published manuscripts, please join the [listserv](#). You can unsubscribe at any time.

### PAHO-KBR | New Guidelines for Health-Related Research Involving Humans

By Carla Saenz

©PAHO



PAHO and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) have published the 2016 revision of these international Guidelines in [Spanish](#). The guidelines were developed by CIOMS, which was founded under the auspices from WHO and UNESCO. These guidelines constitute the most comprehensive and updated consensus guidance for the ethics of research with human subjects. Unlike previous versions, the scope of the 2016 guidelines is all research with human subjects, including biomedical and epidemiological research. PAHO's Regional Program on Bioethics received the valuable contribution of PAHO/WHO bioethics Collaborating Centers in Latin America –FLACSO-Argentina Bioethics Program and the Bioethics Center at Chile's Universidad del Desarrollo— for the revision of the Spanish translation of the guidelines. The English

version is available [here](#).

## PAHO-WHO | Analysis of Doctoral Training in Nursing



On September 21, PAHO / WHO launched the document "Doctoral Training in Nursing in Latin America and the Caribbean" that presents an analysis of the status of doctoral programs in the countries of the Region, with a plan for action whose objective is to promote the training of graduates in nursing with doctorate through the creation, development and consolidation of graduate programs (doctorate level) during the period 2018-2022. The document seeks to promote the training of nurses with the competence required by health systems, and the development of scientific knowledge according to national research priorities and evidence-based practice. To see the complete document, please click [here](#)

## Argentina | Baseline data allows planning the health services for incarcerated people



The Directorate of AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases of the Ministry of Health of Argentina published the "Study on the Prevalence of HIV, Syphilis, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis in Persons in the Context of Confinement in Federal Penitentiary Service Units." This multi-centric study with a sample of over 2200 incarcerated people (22% of the incarcerated population) from six prisons in different provinces, establishes a baseline to define public policies for prevention, diagnosis and assistance for these populations. The study is part of the cooperation and assistance agreement signed in 2008 between the Ministry of Health of the Nation and the current Ministry of Justice and Rights

## STUDENTS FOR BEST EVIDENCE | Key Concepts Series new blog “Consider all of the relevant fair comparisons”

By Neelam Khan (undergraduate dental student).



The collection of blogs on “key concepts” by Students for Best Evidence keeps growing. Among the latest is the key concept on “relevant comparisons”. A single study, regardless of how well-conducted it may be, is unlikely to produce irrefutable evidence for a treatment. Likewise, conclusions cannot be drawn from just a single comparison of treatments as the results can be misleading because of the play of chance. Failing to consider all the relevant fair comparisons can have serious consequences. It can mean that participants in research studies and patients are exposed to treatments that may cause them harm, or be denied

beneficial treatments. Check the collection of blogs and find additional information on S4BE [here](#). Or [consider becoming a blogger at S4BE](#) to enhance your writing, epidemiology, and critical appraisal skills.

© Credit Students for Best Evidence

## UK | Pathways to Address Resilience and Health

By Lorcan Clarke and Virginie Le Masson

### Shocks, stresses and universal health coverage

Pathways to address resilience and health

Lorcan Clarke and Virginie Le Masson

December 2017



Modelando la política para el desarrollo

Achieving universal health coverage (UHC) is critical to ensuring sustainable and resilient lives for all, and therefore to meeting the goals set out under the Sustainable Development Agenda. But health and wellbeing are also subject to other risk drivers, such as climate change and disasters, which disrupt the health and financial benefits that UHC can offer. The report *Shocks, stresses and universal health coverage: pathways to address resilience and health* published by the Overseas Development Institute explores why UHC is important for

health and wellbeing, sustainable development and resilience; how disasters and drivers of risk, such as climate change, negatively impact health and wellbeing and disrupt the desired health and financial benefits of UHC; and the potential of UHC to offer a platform to more actively address shocks and stresses to health and wellbeing through governance, financing and the implementation of services. To read more about the study click [here](#)

## COCHRANE| Latest Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (QES) from Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC):

By Susan Munabi-Babigumira



**Cochrane**  
Effective Practice and  
Organisation of Care

The QES looks at skilled birth attendants in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) and factors that influence their provision of care. A comprehensive summary of the scientific evidence (Cochrane Review) on factors influencing the quality of care in Asia, Africa and Latin America pulled the findings from 31 studies done with skilled birth attendants (doctors, midwives, nurses, auxiliary nurses and their managers) and identified key factors impacting on the quality of care. Many factors related to management, support for human resources, work conditions, and infrastructure. This review provides a set of questions to guide program managers in improving the quality of maternity care. The new evidence and these questions are useful to prompt managers on identifying actions to improve maternal and neonatal health services in low and middle income settings, to address the structural and human resources issues, and to set priorities for research on the areas where knowledge gaps remain. This work guides health systems researchers and health services managers to improve the quality of care. To read more about the study click [here](#).

## CDC-WHO| Antimicrobial resistances as a global threat; tool estimates its prevalence

Nalini Singh, MD, MPH



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was presented as a global health and economic threat in May 2017 at the 70th World Health Assembly and the 43rd G7 Summit, and at the 2017 Hamburg Summit in July 2017, as well as at the World Economic Forum in January 2017. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognize the week of November 13–19, 2017, as “Antibiotic Awareness Week”. The WHO Hospital Antimicrobial Use Point

Prevalence Survey (WHOHAMUPPS) is a standardized tool for estimating the prevalence of antimicrobial use in hospitals. The methodology is designed for worldwide implementation; it has been developed to meet the need and resources requirement in low & middle-income countries. By collecting data at a specific point in time, the WHO HAMU PPS allows key data to be collected in a standardized manner, requiring less time and resources than longitudinal surveys. For more information visit [here](#).

## TDR| The research needed to end tuberculosis by 2030

© WHO/TDR



Urgent action to end tuberculosis (TB) by 2030 has been agreed at the first WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in Moscow. The conference, opened by President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation together with Amina J

Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General, and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, brought together delegates from 114 countries. TDR works closely with WHO and many other partners in a number of key areas to build research capacity and identify new approaches. More than 1000 participants took part in the two-day conference which resulted in collective commitment to ramp up action on four fronts: (1) move rapidly to achieve universal health coverage by strengthening health systems and improving access to people-centered TB prevention and care, ensuring no one is left behind. (2) Mobilize sufficient and sustainable financing through increased domestic and international investments to close gaps in implementation and research. (3) Advance research and development of new tools to diagnose, treat, and prevent TB. 4) Build accountability through a framework to track and review progress on ending TB, including multisector approaches. Ministers also promised to minimize the risk and spread of drug resistance and do more to engage people and communities affected by, and at risk of, TB. To see more information of TDR focused on tuberculosis specifically, or in combination with other diseases, click [here](#).

## ESSENCE ON HEALTH RESEARCH| Five Keys to Optimize the Calculation of Research Costs in Low and Middle Income Countries



This good practice document on research costing *Five keys to optimize the calculation of research costs in low and middle income countries* is now available in Spanish, French and English by clicking [here](#). Originally published in English, this document is one in series of good practice document developed by

the [ESSENCE on Health Research initiative](#) which allows donors/funders to identify synergies, bring about coherence and increase the value of resources and actions for health research. It reviews funding practices related to direct and indirect costs using specific case studies from Latin America and the Caribbean, and helps to better understand the challenges and requirements of research costing. It also offers guidance to develop appropriate and accurate costing of research in a sustainable manner, and to use costing to facilitate engagement between funders, sponsors and research institutions.

## PAHO | Spanish translation, 46th Advisory Committee on Health Research report



The Spanish translation of the report of the 46th Session of the Health Research Advisory Committee is available from November 28-30, 2016. The document can be accessed at [www.paho.org/cais/46](http://www.paho.org/cais/46). The reference of it is:

Pan American Health Organization. 46th Session of the Advisory Committee on Health Research. (Washington, D.C., November 28 - 30, 2016). Washington, D.C. : PAHO; 2018. Available at <http://iris.paho.org/xmlui/handle/123456789/34530>.

## CAMPBELL COLLABORATION| Community-based approaches are most effective in promoting changes in hygiene practices, but sustainability is a challenge



This [Campbell Systematic Review](#) examines the effectiveness of different approaches for promoting handwashing and sanitation behavior change, and factors affecting implementation, in low and middle-income countries. The review summarizes evidence from 42 impact evaluations, and from 28 qualitative studies. The main findings of this review are: (a) Community-based approaches which include a sanitation component can increase handwashing with soap at key times; use of latrines and safe disposal; and reduce the frequency of open defecation. (b) Social marketing seems less effective. The approach mainly shows an effect on sanitation outcomes when interventions combine handwashing and sanitation components. (c) Sanitation and hygiene messaging with a focus on handwashing with soap has an effect after the intervention has ended, but there is little impact on sanitation outcomes. However, these effects are not sustainable in the long term. Using elements of psychosocial theory in a small-scale handwashing promotion intervention, or adding theory-based elements such as infrastructure promotion or public commitment to an existing promotional approach, seem promising for handwashing with soap. None of these approaches had consistent effects on behavioral factors such as knowledge, skills and attitude, or on health. If you interested on Campbell Collaboration visit this [page](#).

## EQUATOR-BRAZIL| Choosing journals for publication and using Equator guidelines



Source: EQUATOR Network

The EQUATOR Network (Enhancing the Quality and Transparency Of health Research) is an international initiative to enhance the reliability and value of medical research literature by promoting transparent, accurate reporting of research studies. Some students at UNIFESP (Universidade Federal de São Paulo) asked for help with this subject, and Patricia Logullo, a scientific journalist, and medical writer prepared a workshop on the subject for them on December 5th. These are students from the first League on Evidence-Based Health in Brazil, a group guided by Rachel Riera, a professor at UNIFESP and assistant coordinator of Cochrane Brazil. The workshop was one of a series of presentations on reporting integrity and transparency, based on the Equator Network and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines. For more information click [here](#).

# CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

## NIH | Knowledge exchanges to strengthen local and global cancer control capacities

© NIH



The Center for Global Health is excited to be launching the Project ECHO Caribbean Cancer Control Program starting in February 2018. [Project ECHO \(Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes\)](#) is a movement to de-monopolize

knowledge and amplify local capacity globally, using technology to leverage scarce resources, share best practices to reduce disparities, and apply case-based learning in a tele-mentoring platform, while using a web-based M&E database. The Caribbean Cancer Control ECHO will link participants active in cancer control with regional colleagues and relevant technical experts, through monthly ECHO sessions that will provide didactic instruction, case study learning and knowledge exchange on cancer control planning principles. The Caribbean ECHO program will have a special focus on cancer control development and implementation with a special focus on breast and cervical cancers. To receive more information please email [amara.ndumele@nih.gov](mailto:amara.ndumele@nih.gov).

## BIREME-PAHO/WHO CHILE | New Online Course on Access and Use of Health Information

© Bireme



BIREME's technical cooperation develops information products and services applied to the management, access and use of health information and evidence and to the development of capacities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. With this purpose, the self-study course "Access and Use of Scientific Information in Health" was developed, in Spanish and aimed at professionals, researchers, managers and students in search of information and scientific evidence to subsidize the practice and the taking of decision on health, exploring with greater emphasis the sources of information and resources of the Virtual Health Library (VHL).

The course is available in the Virtual Campus of Public Health (CVSP), is free and offers certification. Access the course online [here](#).

## Universidad de Antioquia, TDR Masters in Epidemiology



**Becas completas para realizar la Maestría en Epidemiología en la Universidad de Antioquia con financiación del programa TDR/OMS.**

The National School of Public Health of the University of Antioquia offers the Master's degree in Epidemiology focused on researching the implementation of interventions. The Master's is supported by the [Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, TDR](#). The Program is hosted by WHO and sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and WHO. The new cohort is expected to start in July 2018 with students from low and middle income countries from Latin

America and the Caribbean. For more information, click [here](#) or write to: [maestriaepidemiologia@udea.edu.co](mailto:maestriaepidemiologia@udea.edu.co)

## SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH

This new section of the Research Newsletter highlights innovative solutions that can be adapted and replicated elsewhere, for the improvement of health systems.

### Riders for Health, delivering health services to isolated areas ([SIHI Project](#))

© SIHI



**Challenge:** Riders for health (Riders) is a social enterprise, founded in 1990, that improves access to health care for rural populations by providing transportation services, including vehicle management, training and support services to national governments and health care delivery organizations in Africa. Riders enables the existing health care system to be more efficient by managing and maintaining a transport network of motorcycles and vehicles, which links the different elements of the healthcare system together.

**Intervention:** Riders achieve its goal through three components of their model : (1)Vehicle management system: Riders conduct all management and maintenance functions, including preventive maintenance, replacing vehicles components on a regular basis to allow vehicles to reach their intended lifetime, minimize downtime and produce long-term savings; (2)Training: Riders provide certification and practical training to workers who utilize vehicles to reach the communities; (3)Support Services: Supply chain distribution, Diagnostic sample transport and medical emergency transportation. Read more about this case-study [here](#) and visit the webpage of [SIHI here](#) to learn how this model was used to provide health services to areas that are difficult to reach.

## PAHO RESEARCH TEAM UPDATES

© PAHO



We were pleased to welcome Ms. Stefanie Suclupe and Dr. Orlando Buendia to the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research (KBR) at PAHO HQ in Washington, D.C.

Stefanie is a nurse with a MSc in Clinical Research Applied to Health Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a Diplomate in Sexual and Reproductive Health. She was a member of the Board of Directors at the Peruvian Institute for Responsible Parenthood (INPPARES), and she has participated as volunteer in the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF/WHR). Stefanie has worked in rural areas providing primary care, has developed epidemiological surveillance plans in national hospital and she has been part of the technical team of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Health in Peru. Currently she is in the PhD Program in Public Health and has the commitment to contribute on scientific research to improve access to health services especially in vulnerable populations.

Orlando is a medical doctor an MBA/MPH candidate at Manchester Business School / London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in the United Kingdom. He has worked at a Life Sciences fund (Catapult Ventures) in the UK, investing in a broad portfolio of healthcare startups. Orlando funded on 2014 in Lima – Peru an entrepreneurial business (DEPTO SAC) based on renting self-owned studio apartments, integrating property management with medical rehabilitation and preventive medicine. DEPTO established in its business model physical and cardiac rehabilitation for tenants with medical needs alongside preventative medicine consults for remaining tenants without an immediate medical problem. Orlando is a medical doctor with clinical practice in the USA and Peru. Currently he is interested in healthcare innovation, social innovation and healthcare knowledge translation.

## RESEARCHER'S comment

---



Guest researcher: Dr. Xavier Bonfill, Director of the Ibero-American Cochrane Centre and a champion for Cochrane in Ibero-America. Dr. Bonfill states that since the creation of the Cochrane Collaboration in 1993, a main objective has been to disseminate scientific evidence from systematic reviews, through the Cochrane Library. This electronic publication reaches millions of users and keeps expanding its number of users. In Latin America, there is a growing number of countries offering national subscriptions with full access to the Cochrane Library. Hopefully

those other countries where readers still face access barriers will move towards better access to this key resource. In 2018 we will see the launch of the new and multilingual Cochrane Library. In the photo, Dr. Xavier Bonfill

## IN MEMORIAM

---

**Ms. Eleana Villanueva:** Until her retirement in 2015 Eleana Villanueva was an advisor at PAHO's Research



Promotion and Development team at the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research, where she transferred after having worked in publications. Eleana was well known for being a solution oriented person. She strengthened the research program with her great enthusiasm and ability to engage people and productive partnerships. She mentored interns and organized communications, and was always ready to find positive ways to address issues and sort situations. Following her retirement Eleana visited PAHO frequently and attended the ToastMasters Club where she had a leadership role. Eleana passed away on Thanksgiving week. She has left a

lasting legacy with lasting partnerships and achievements, and left a mark with her ability to communicate effectively and kindly. We are grateful for having had the privilege of working with Eleana who was a great asset to PAHO. We are grateful for the numerous condolences sent to us by work partners, collaborators, mentees and many others who felt Eleana touched their lives and made a positive difference.

**Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras:** With great sadness we inform of the passing of Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras,



an enthusiastic and brilliant member of PAHO's Advisory Committee on Health Research. Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras. Dr. Muñoz Porras will be remembered with special affection and gratitude, because in addition to making important contributions to public health, he knew how to do them with generosity and very special consideration. He was a prominent advisor to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in many areas promoting public health, health research, and equity, and he was an inspiring and thoughtful contributor to PAHO's [46<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Health Research](#)

---

Thoughts or contributions on this newsletter? Send us a message at [RP@paho.org](mailto: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. Stefanie Suclupe](#), [Mrs. Orlando Buendia](#), and [Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo](#).

© Pan-American Health Organization · 525 23rd Street Northwest · Washington, DC 20038 · USA