Secretariat's Report to 41st PAHO's Advisory Committee on Health Research - ACHR/CAIS

Washington DC, 29 November 2007

Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo

ACHR Secretary

Chief of the PAHO/WHO Research Promotion and Development Unit

Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Key Messages

- CAIS/ACHR recommendations have been heard and action has been taken on almost every front
- There is growing support and awareness for the need to strengthen research use and production; this is now reflected in high level agreements, the Health Agenda of the Americas, and the Organization's work plan
- ACHR members have responded to our requests and have been supporting specific initiatives

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

This Presentation

- **Background Developments since April 2007**
- **Committee Recommendations 40th ACHR/CAIS**
- **Progress Reports and achievements**
- **Questions, issues for debate**

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Background Developments since May 2007

Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Developments since April 2007

- **Bamako Ministerial Summit 2008 "Research for Health"**: consultations with the internal group, PAHO offices, and plans for regional consultations being prepared.
- **Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017,** launched in Panama in June 2007
- **IX IberoAmerican Conference of Ministers of Health** "*Social Cohesion & Health Protection*", Iquique, Chile: Go ahead for the **Ibero-American Ministerial Network for Education & Research for Public Health, RIMAIS.** July 2007
- **Alignment of WHO and PAHO Strategy** and expected results for the next biennium.

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Health Agenda for the Americas
2008 -2017
Harnessing Knowledge, Science & Technology

- Agreed by Ministers of Health from Latin America & Caribbean, after broad consultation and involvement of other sectors; presented for the Assembly of the *Organization of American States*, Panama, 5 June 2007

- Impacts the 2008-2017 work plan of member countries

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Press Release

Health Agenda for the Americas Launched In Panama

PANAMA CITY, Panama, June 5, 2007 (PAHO)—The hemisphere's top health policy authorities have launched the Health Agenda for the Americas, setting out the health priorities the governments propose to tackle over the next decade. The plan was unveiled here before the opening of the 37th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Panamanian Health Minister Dr. Camilo Alleyne and PAHO Director Dr. Mirta Roses Periago.

Panamanian President Martín Torrijos, Panamanian Health Minister Dr. Camilo Alleyne, UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon and PAHO Director Dr. Mirta Roses, along with OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza signed the Health Agenda for the Americas.

PAHO's Dr. Roses said that launching the Health Agenda of the Americas represents a singleness of purpose around improving human life and enhancing understanding and harmony among peoples.

"The Health Agenda for the Americas will be a framework to orient the development of future health plans and the strategic plans of those organizations interested in cooperating in health with the countries of the Americas, including PAHO/WHO," she said.

Roses described the health plan as the product of a process of consultations at various levels, involving governments and civil society, to present "a platform that articulates the governments' sovereign and collective will, speaking to the world, to their citizens and to civil society while addressing the need for international cooperation and identifying what the health sector can contribute to development and what it needs from the other sectors."

Source: www.paho.org

Main topics Health Agenda

- Systematic use of research evidence
- Better understanding of health determinants and the means to address them
- Broader scope and identification of appropriate technologies
- Bioethics approach
- Equity and distribution of the benefits of progress
- Public engagement, appropriation, demands for knowledge, and confidence in research
- Rational use of resources
- Continuous improvement; monitoring & evaluation

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

RIMAIS Using research to inform policy

- To help identify priorities and gaps
- To think about problems and solutions differently
- To help solve problems (i.e. what type of action should we support?)
- To support decisions
- To fosters multi-disciplinary collaboration
- To make the most of existing resources, and allow them to develop and strive

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Needs direction and development to be implementable

Committee Recommendations and Secretariat's Response

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

PAHO Research Inventory

- Create a PAHO Research Inventory to support PAHO research governance
- It needs to have clear objectives

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Project Statement

To enhance PAHO's research governance, impact and visibility, we will establish a working electronic research inventory and tracking system rolled out throughout PAHO, by the end of the first quarter of 2008

Goal

To enable appropriate governance of PAHOs research, maximize its impact, and improve research management.

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Objective 1

- **To have an operational digital tracking system by the end of 2008 that allows the monitoring, characterization, and integration of PAHOs research into routine research management processes, such as those involving the Ethics Review Committee.**
  - The database tested and ready to be used and deployed
  - An executive report presented to the ACHR (with input from the system) characterizing research being done in PAHO
  - Automated reports delivered to selected parties

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Objective 2

- **To deliver by December 2008 a Directive that requires compulsory research registration within PAHO, and to offer the tools that allow compliance with this requirement**
  - A directive approved and published

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

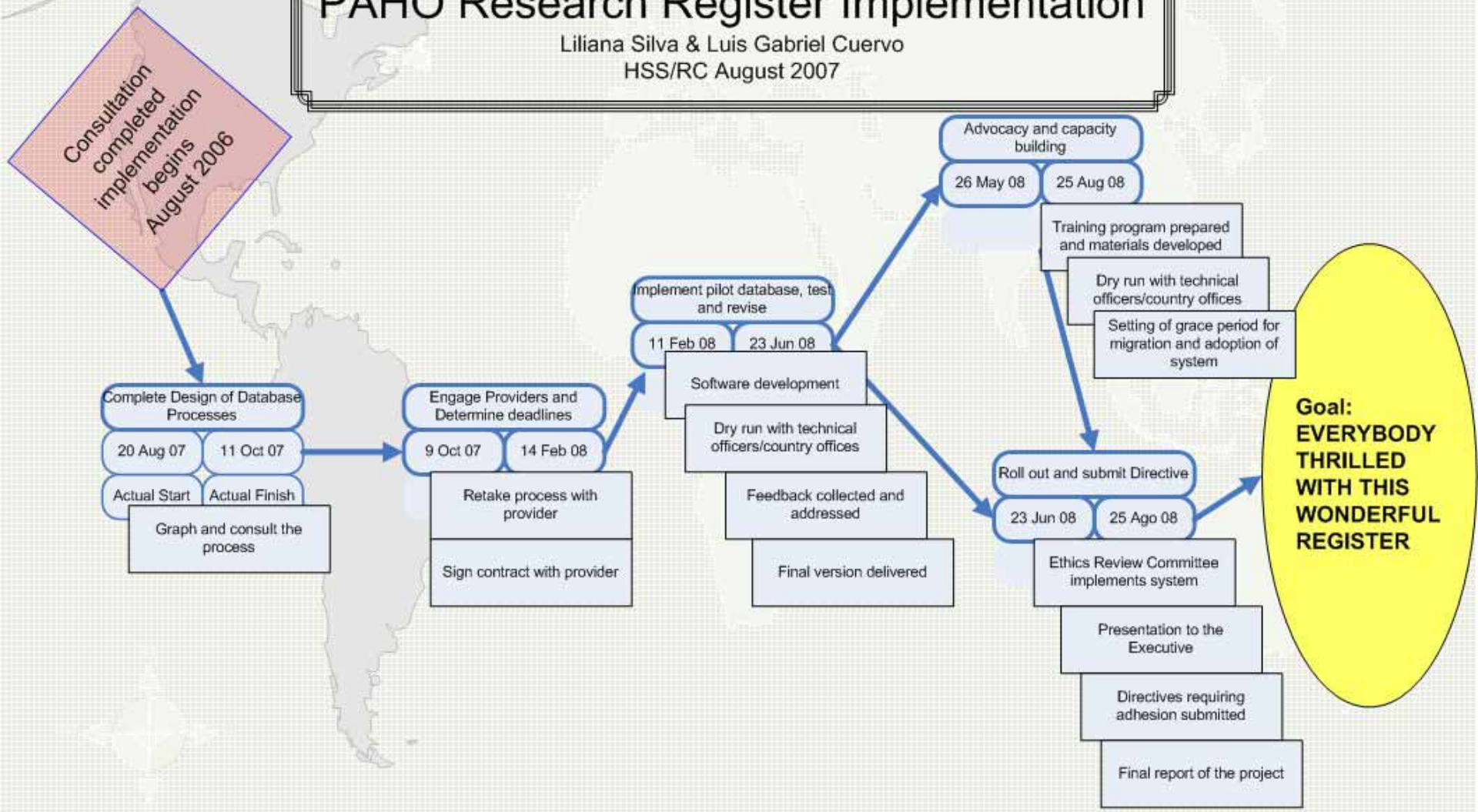
What we have done so far…

- A proposal has been consulted and delivered; it recommends a strategy for the implementation of the system and addresses the needs of parties involved with research at PAHO
- Providers for the software have been identified
- A team member appointed in August 2007 to plan and deliver the implementation of the system, and provide strategic guidance
- The plan for the implementation has been developed (see attachment) and is under way

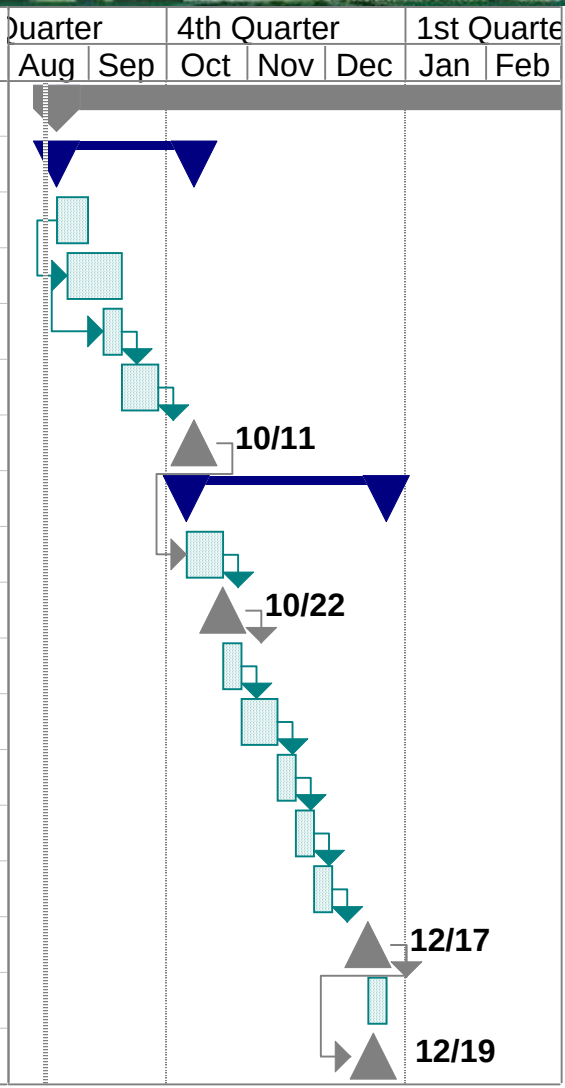
Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

PAHO Research Register Implementation

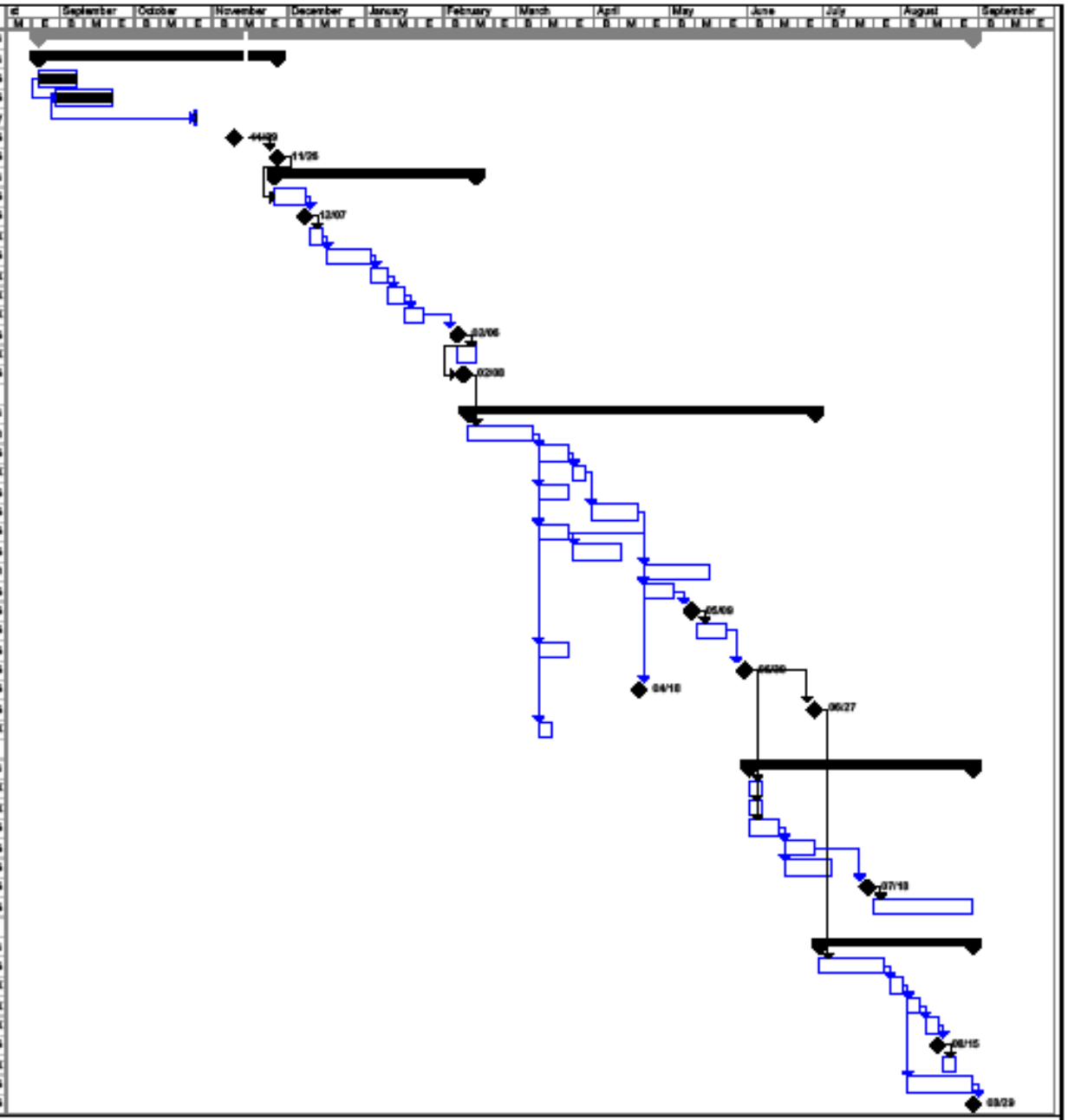
Liliana Silva & Luis Gabriel Cuervo
HSS/RC August 2007



ID	Task Name	Duration
0	**PAHO Research Register Implementation v1.0**	**228 days**
1	**Complete design of the database processes**	**39 days**
2	Review existing documentation/records	10 days
3	Create a precise graph of the processes	3 wks
4	Consult and Identify the synergies with the journal	5 days
5	Consult with the interested/involved parties	10 days
6	Summary terms of reference and graph completed	0 days
7	**Engage providers and determine deadlines**	**55 days**
8	Reestablish contact with provider- briefing	10 days
9	Meeting with providers	0 days
10	Provider delivers quote/deadline	1 wk
11	Review proposal	10 days
12	Come to an agreement	1 wk
13	Draft of contract	1 wk
14	Submit for approvals	1 wk
15	PAHO Approval of the contract	0 days
16	Formalize contract	1 wk
17	Sign contract	0 ewks



ID	Task Name	Duration
0	F:\InventoryforResearchProposals\PAHO Research	261 days
1	Complete design of the database processes	65 days
2	Review existing documentation/records	10 days
3	Create a precise graph of the processes	3 wks
4	Consult and identify the synergies with the jour	1 day
5	Consult with the interested/involved parties	0 wks
6	Summary terms of reference and graph compl	0 days
7	Engage providers and determine deadlines	55 days
8	Reestablish contact with provider- briefing	10 days
9	Meeting with providers	0 days
10	Provider delivers quote/deadline	1 wk
11	Review proposal	10 days
12	Come to an agreement	1 wk
13	Draft of contract	1 wk
14	Submit for approvals	1 wk
15	PAHO Approval of the contract	0 days
16	Formalize contract	1 wk
17	Sign contract	0 ewks
18		
19	Implement pilot database, test and revise	100 days
20	Software development	1 mon
21	Dry run of the first version	10 days
22	Report of the dry run	1 wk
23	Identify and train administrators	2 wks
24	Software reviewed and updated	15 days
25	Prepare feedback strategy	10 days
26	Test pilot the software with a range of potential	15 days
27	Test with the Ethics Review Committee	1 mon
28	Collect feedback	10 days
29	Feedback submitted to the providers	0 days
30	Software tuned up	2 wks
31	Review help tools and training resources	2 wks
32	Product delivered	0 days
33	Back up systems tested	0 days
34	Payment for the final version made	0 days
35	Maintenance strategy prepared	1 wk
36		
37	Advocacy and capacity building	65 days
38	Prepare training materials	1 wk
39	Run training program for administrators	1 wk
40	Prepare guidance document for standard users	2 wks
41	Prepare virtual educational materials and sessi	2 wks
42	Run tests with technical officers	15 days
43	All areas and country offices with ongoing rese	0 days
44	Define the grace period and transition from pap	6 wks
45		
46	Roll out and Submit Directive	45 days
47	Ethics Review Committee implements electron	4 wks
48	Directive to submit ERC proposals electronicall	1 wk
49	Present the tool to the Executive	1 wk
50	Get approval to roll it out	1 wk
51	Approval to roll out	0 days
52	Submit Directive requiring transition into electr	1 wk
53	Project report and financial summary prepared	4 wks
54	Project financial and process report delivered	0 days



Participation in the ICTRP Initiative

(detailed progress report scheduled for 15:00)

- Establish clear objectives for any new registers
- Interest in establishing a regional portal and primary register for the Region
- Work with strategic partners (e.g. BIREME)
- Consider a common platform; avoid duplication and ensure compatibility and standards
- Coordinate regional activities

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Research Grants Program

- Comments and recommendations were issued regarding the characteristics of the grants program. It was agreed to continue it within the framework of PAHOs Research Policy
- Grants will end in December 2007; we are now reviewing the final batch of report submissions.

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Evidence Informed Policy Networks

(detailed progress report scheduled for 14:00)

- Creating a climate that supports research use
- Address priority health systems issues using a range of research methods
- Laying bridges between policy and research
- Getting policy makers to have a thoughtful (and systematic) use of evidence
- Deliver evidence just on time and in a helpful and useful format

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

EVIPNet Recommendations

(detailed progress report scheduled for 14:00)

- Use as a tool, get health authorities to engage and commit to it.
- Get firm and ongoing country commitment
- Engage national science & technology associations
- Build on existing resources and strengths (e.g. BIREME)
- Consider sub-regional approaches
- Engage with human resources initiatives

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Health Research Policy

(detailed progress report scheduled for 11:00)

- Structure that will consider
  - Values and principles
  - Global and regional context
  - PAHO and member state contributions
- Commitments
  - Countries support for research and its use
  - PAHOs role as facilitator of research and its use

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Policy: further analysis needed on…

- Role of public sector on research
- PAHOs comparative advantage in research
- Research funding patterns
- Governance and stewardship in countries
- Importance of non-biomedical research
- Innovation, technological developments, and their effects on equity

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

- PAHOs outward looking and inward looking roles
- Ethical implications, intellectual property
- Implementation, adaptation, and flexibility in the use of research
- Competencies and human resources needs
- Standards and ethical base
- Involvement of other international partners
- Timetable

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Agreements

- Cochrane Collaboration Association/Ibero-American Cochrane Network and PAHO: singed Memorandum of Agreement
  - Aim: to cooperate strengthening the production and use of research evidence for Public Health
- James Lind Library: to deliver advocacy materials that illustrate the importance of research results in health care, in four languages, written in crystal clear language.

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Other initiatives

- IRDIS: Health Research Data Initiative
- Campbell Collaboration
- International Clinical Epidemiology Network – LatINCLEN
- Growth of research in the Caribbean and the focus on non communicable diseases (risk factors for cardiovascular disease and diabetes)

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Corporate Activities

- ACHR: Advisory Committee on Health Research
- PAHOERC: PAHO Ethics Committee
- PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers
- Tools for dissemination and communication
  - Research Listserve: 110 notifications to 293 targeted subscribers in 28 countries (Feb 2006)
  - Virtual Health Library for Science and Health: focused on research and supporting science & technology managers
  - Evidence Portal

Should the ACHR contribute to the Health & Science VHL? Can the ACHR advise this resource and its integration with other projects? How should we develop this in a strategic way?

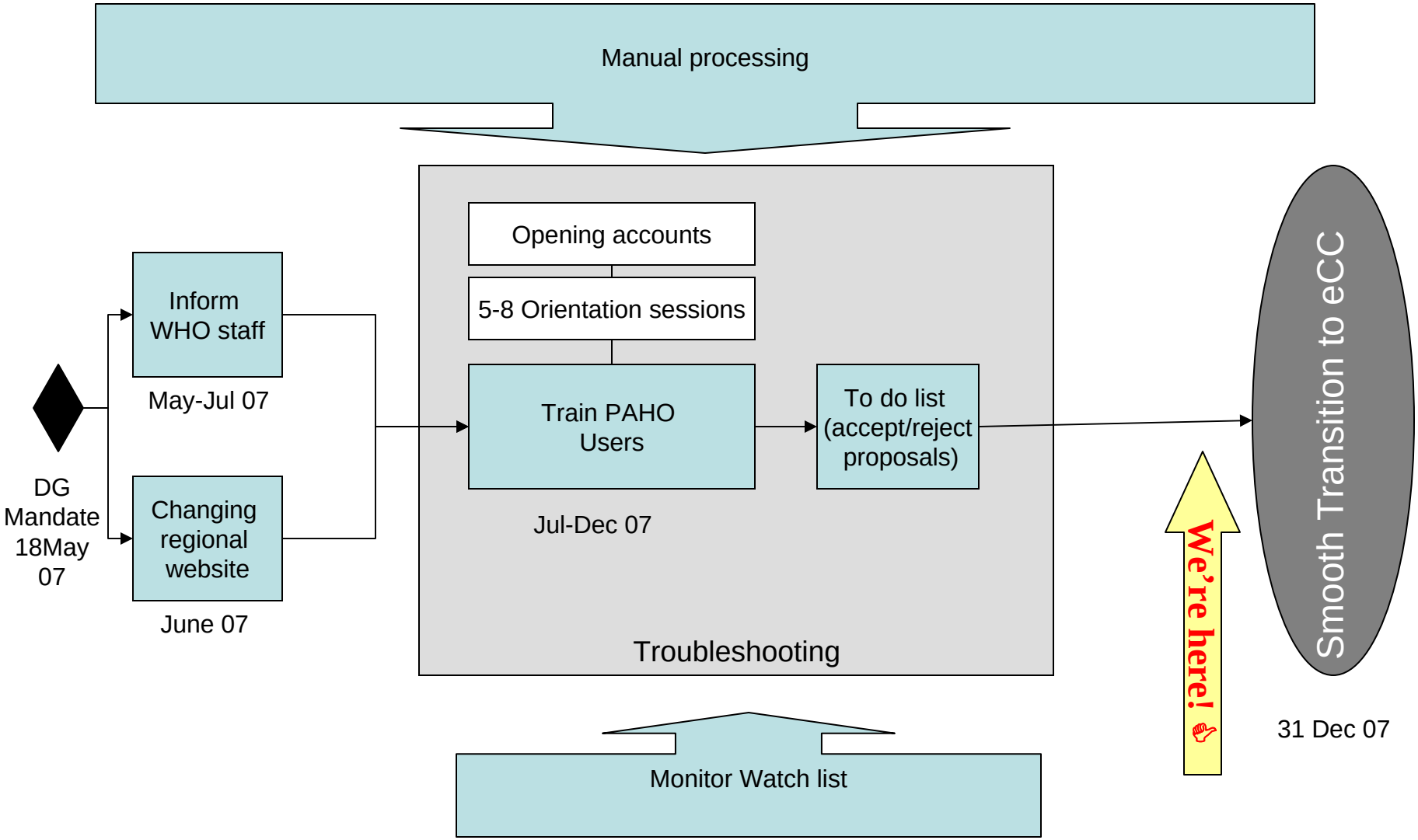
Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Administration of PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centers

Plan to improve the document management system and processing

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

WHO Collaborating Centers: AMRO Transition to Automated Electronic Processing system (June – December 2007)



Collaborating Centers Transition Plan
June – Dec 2007

- ✓ **Recreated user friendly regional CC website: www.bireme.br/whocc/ with essential WHO links**

- ✓ **Presented eCC overview to CC networks/tech areas**
- ✓ **Coordinated eCC orientation sessions (>50 trained)**
- ✓ **Provided personalized troubleshooting for the system**

- ✓ **Coordinated reassignment of WHO/PAHO responsible technical officers for nearly 150 centers**

- ✓ **Contributed to WHO global site users' guides:** https://intranet.who.int/homes/kcs/collaborating_centres/forms/index.shtml
- ✓ **Completed "to do" list requests/proactive follow-ups**

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

PAHOs Research Ethics Review Committee

(PAHOERC)

Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Ethics Committee

- Reactivated in June 2006
- 13 members (2 positions to be filled)
- Responsabilities:
  - Quality Control
  - Education and advocacy
  - Institutional Memory

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

- Quality Control

  Jun 2006 – Nov 2007

  – 72 projects processed; 55 reviewed
    - 21 approved (16 required changes)

  – Further work on standard operatings procedures
  – Submission and procedural processes disseminated (GIB)
  – Strengthening of the Secretariat to meet increased demand of work: support consultant to join in Jan 2008

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

PAHO Ethics Review Process (PAHOERC)

Project Proposal Review Process

1. Submission of Project by either Principal Investigator, Country PWR, or Technical Unit for review by Central Administrator of the Secretariat.

Projects and communications are channeled by email to ***pahoerc@paho.org***

2. The **Review** entails verification of certain forms when appropriate:
a. Informed consent
b. Proof of approval by local Ethics Review Board
c. Project questionnaire when applicable
d. Previous reviews and comments

If any item is missing, the project proposal will be returned to the relevant person, unit, or country responsible for its completion.

(1 week)

3. Project **evaluated** by 3 member PAHOERC Screening Team (PST). PST will decide whether the project proposal:
a. Does not require ethical review; a letter to this effect is produced
b. Requires additional information before proceeding
c. Progresses to review

(1-2 weeks)

4. Secretariat sends proposal to at least 2 reviewers; their reviews are then collated and shared with the Committee.

(3 weeks)

5. Taking into account the expert reviewers' opinion, PAHOERC reviews the project and produces a final decision to either:

a. Approve fully
b. Approve conditionally, pending revisions
c. Not-approved

(3 weeks)

6. A letter with PAHOERC's decision is sent to the relevant person who originally submitted the proposal. **Process ends here** unless an appeal or response is submitted.

7. Appeals and resubmissions are reviewed by PAHOERC (with or without additional reviews) and a decision is made to:
a. Approve
b. Not approve

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

* All times are estimates; they can be shorter or longer depending on several factors, including personnel and reviewer availability, planned review dates, and other factors that may be outside of our managerial control.

- Education and advocacy

  Training for PAHO Staff (organized with WHO-ERC, PAHOs Bioetics Program, Harvard School of Public Health and the Latin American Forum of Health Research Ethics) May 2007

  – 20 Participants
    - 6 focal points from country offices
    - 3 PAHOERC members
    - 11 HQ Staff (non PAHOERC)
    - 4 Facilitators

  – Testing the customised virtual course modules on “Bioethics and Research involving Human Subjects” prepared by the University of Chile and the Programs of Bioethics of the Univeristy of Miami.

- Institutional memory

  The Secretariat monitors projects and is working on the implementation of the document tracking and indexing system

Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Integration of HSS/RC with Regional Counterparts and HQ

- PAHO HSS/RC has championed the interaction with other regional research focal points, identifying synergies and opportunities for collaboration, and working in coordination with HQ. Specific areas where progress has been made include:

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

- Consultation of the research strategy
- Evidence-informed policy networks
- International Clinical Trial Register: sharing of developments, resources, and consultations. Agreeing on jointly organized meetings and common venues.
- Guidelines for Guidelines
- Ethics Review Committee's sharing of strategy and lessons learned
- Exploring the integration of developments in existing networks (e.g. registration into grants approvals, ethics review and best practices)
- Assessments of scientific production: sharing of resources

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

- Research in WHO; a historical perspective

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Thank you!

Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization