



RESEARCH FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2013

A periodic, informative bulletin reporting on the activities of research for health. Its purpose is to inform countries, partners, and PAHO managers and staff on the advances in the execution of PAHO's Policy on Research for Health. Please send questions and comments to villanue@paho.org.

Hot Spot



PAHO/WHO announces winners of the PAHO-Ibero-American Cochrane Network Award

Researchers from Colombia and Peru were selected as winners of the 2013 Award under theme "Prevention of chronic noncommunicable diseases through healthy lifestyles." The winning work of the systematic review category was "Efficacy of the prescription of physical activity in obese child population," by Edgar Hernández, Maria Victoria Valero-Bernal and Erika Mancera. The winner in the best protocol category was "Multiple interventions in lifestyles for the prevention of obesity in children and adolescents in low and middle income countries," by Yamilée Hurtado, Marianela Oré, and Gisely Hajar. For more information, [click here](#).



Winners of short-term subsidies selected

More than 80 applications from 18 countries were received for the plan of [short-term subsidies](#). The four [winning projects](#) were chosen by a panel of eight PAHO staff members who based their decision on criteria such as scientific quality and feasibility of the results to be obtained within one year. The program aims to strengthen research capacity in health policy and systems in Latin American and the Caribbean, particularly in the areas of financing, governance and human resources. The winners were from Chile, Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago.



World Health Report 2013: Research for Universal Health Coverage

The [World Health Report 2013](#) argues that universal health coverage— with full access to high-quality services for prevention, treatment and financial risk protection—cannot be achieved without the evidence provided by scientific research. In addition, it identifies the benefits of increased investment in health research by low and middle-income countries using case studies from around the world, and proposes ways to continue to strengthen this type of research. Dr. Carissa Etienne, PAHO's Director, further advances the topic on her piece ["Encouraging Research, Promoting Equity"](#) published on the newly launched Lancet Global Health Blog.

Countries' News



Honduras, Tegucigalpa. Workshop on Effective Project Planning and Evaluation of Health Research Projects (EPPE). June 18-21, 2013.

The [workshop](#) was organized by the [Scientific Research Unit](#) (UIC) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, School of Medical Science, with the technical support of PAHO, CIDEIM and TDR. The seminar, that included 12 participants from three national institutions and one from Guatemala, was launched by Dr. Lelany Pineda, head of UIC, and Dr. Alma Fabiola Morales, PAHO/WHO Representative a.i. Dr. Morales emphasized the importance of evidence-based decision-making and congratulated the UIC for promoting human resources training in this aspect of research. This is the second EPPE workshop organized by the UIC—the first one took place in 2008. Currently, there are plans to turn Honduras into a point of reference for this methodology in the Central American region. To access the session's materials, [click here](#).



Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Clinical Practice Guidelines and Evidence-based Policy Courses, August 5-9, 2013

Two workshops entitled “Introduction to the development and adaptation of clinical practice guidelines” and “Health policies based on evidence, methods, and practice” were offered to 25 researchers and 25 managers with the objective to build a community of researchers trained in the use of evidence in the Dominican Republic. The workshops were coordinated by the National Research Directorate, Dra. Emilia Guzmán de Mercedes, Director, and Cochrane, Dr. Mario Tristán. The 40-hour seminars were sponsored by PAHO, IHCAI Foundation from Costa Rica, Cochrane Collaboration, DDEI, and the Ministry of Health.

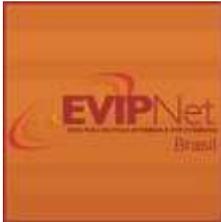
Research policy implementation

EVIPNET



Workshop in San Jose, Costa Rica, July 1-5 2013

PAHO and the Costa Rican Ministry of Health organized the workshop of the Costa Rican Evidence-informed Policy Network for the preparation of evidence briefs for policy and deliberative dialogues. The event targeted four Country Teams from the Ministry, the Costa Rican social security and INCIENSA. Among the workshop's objectives were strengthening the development of evidence-based health policies in the country and monitoring the teams already working in policies since the [April 2013 seminar](#).

	<p>EVIPNET Brazil launches Center for Evidence, June 27, 2013</p> <p>The Center, made possible through the collaboration of the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Secretary of Health of Recife, is another tool to promote the use of scientific knowledge in the design and implementation of health-related policies. The inauguration of the Center was accompanied by the launch of the Virtual Health Library, member of the BiblioSUS Network, which disseminates information produced by the Ministry and fosters debate, interaction, research, and the promotion of health.</p>
	<p>Health Systems Evidence(HSE) integrated into BIREME's Virtual Health Library</p> <p>This valuable resource is now available to health system policymakers around the world by virtue of integrating its database into the VHL. HSE is the world's most comprehensive, free access point for evidence to support policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders interested in improving health systems or in getting cost-effective programs, services and drugs to the people who need them. The new integrated site was recently launched by the EVIPNet Brasil.</p>
	<p>EVIPNet featured on TDR website</p> <p>TDR, a Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, recently published a profile of EVIPNet detailing the history of the initiative, its growth and progress, and the importance of its work. The full text can be found here.</p>
	<p>New EVIPNet Brochure</p> <p>If you wish to learn more about EVIPNet and the work of this innovative mechanism designed to promote the systematic use of high quality research in policymaking in low and middle-income countries, you may download the brochure here (available in Spanish only).</p>
	<p>Canadian Government launches Clinical Trials Database</p> <p>Canada's new public database of Health Canada-authorized drug clinical trials is meant to help Canadians be active participants in their health care, including choosing to take part of clinical trials. Patients, healthcare professionals and the public will also be able to verify whether a drug trial has received regulatory authorization in Canada. For more information, click here.</p>

GUIDELINES FOR GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT



Online courses on GRADE guidelines

Two online courses on evidence-based practice guidelines using the GRADE methodology in accordance with WHO standards were offered for more than 60 professionals in 15 countries. The courses aimed to improve the knowledge and skills in the process of elaboration and adaptation of evidence-based guidelines, their critical appraisal, and their implementation in the health context. It was led by epidemiologists and methodologists from Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of PAHO professionals.

HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

Workshop on systematic reviews

A workshop for over 20 PAHO staff members took place on the 27th and 28th of June at PAHO headquarters. The purpose of the seminar was to train participants in the basic aspects of developing systematic reviews and how to use evidence to formulate policy options and recommendations for practice. It was led by Ludovic Reveiz and Evelina Chapman from PAHO Research Promotion and Development group, Alonso Carrasco from McMaster University, and Romina Brignardello from University of Toronto.

New Training Resources: Training Listserv and updated webpage

PAHO Research Promotion and Development recently launched a Listserv where training opportunities sponsored by PAHO and its partners will be posted. Previous participants in PAHO-related training opportunities are part of this list. People interested in subscribing to this ListServ can do so by sending an email to listserv@listserv.vt.edu and typing in the body of the message: **subscribe [Research-training] [First Name] [Last Name]**. If you need assistance with this list contact Jimmy Le: lej@paho.org

In addition, the training page of the research portal has been updated and organized. Information about upcoming and ongoing seminars, webinars and events can easily be found [here](#).

	<p>Research Interest Group: Testing Treatments-Interactive Project</p> <p>On June 24th the Research Interest Group hosted a webcast with Dr. Giordano Pérez-Gaxiola, editor of the Spanish website that was created to further disseminate the message contained in the book “Testing Treatments” by Imogen Evans, Hazel Thornton and Iain Chalmers. During his talk, he showed how to take advantage of the information published in the site. He also reflected on the importance of testing treatments for patients, health professional, researchers and anyone else interested in finding answers to questions such as how to determine whether one treatment is better than another, or if the tests on the benefits and harms of a treatment are valid. The video of the webcast can be found here and here.</p>
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STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

	<p>21st Cochrane Colloquium</p> <p>The 21st Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Quebec City in September 19-23 under the theme “Better knowledge for better health”. The event’s program and other relevant information can be found here. The PAHO Cochrane 2013 Award will be delivered during this event (see Hot Spot). Also, PAHO is hosting two meetings during the Colloquium, one on Evidence to policy in graduate programs and another on Research dissemination for impact. In addition, the poster “Online capacity building in translating research into practice for Latin American researchers” presented by PAHO and Cochrane Iberoamericana will be displayed.</p>
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	<p>COHRED visits PAHO</p> <p>Professor Carel IJsselmuiden, Executive Director of COHRED, and Dr. Gerard Keusch, co-Chair of the COHRED Board, visited PAHO on the 12th of July. The representatives of the Geneva-based group met with PAHO HSS/HR, Charles Godue, Coordinator, and staff Luis Gabriel Cuervo and Eleana C Villanueva, Research Advisors, to discuss, among others, the extension of the Collaboration Agreement, forthcoming initiatives for the partnership, and upgrading the HRWeb Américas. Both PAHO and COHRED agreed to reach out together to partners and funding agencies to continue working to strengthen national health research systems with Dr. Keusch stating “the COHRED Board will be actively working to make the organization a valuable partner for PAHO and other like-minded forward looking organizations”.</p>
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 <p>Extensión PRISMA-Equidad 2012: guías para la escritura y la publicación de revisiones sistemáticas enfocadas en la equidad en salud</p>	<p>Pan American Journal of Public Health publishes PRISMA-Equity Guideline</p> <p>“PRISMA-Equity 2012 Extension: Reporting Guidelines for Systematic Reviews with a Focus on Health Equity” is a Guideline translated into Spanish available in open access that addresses the fact that few systematic reviews focus on equity and its effects on health. PRISMA-Equity aims to help authors identify, extract and summarize the evidence related to equity in their reviews, emphasizing on how aspects such as gender and socioeconomic status relate to the quality of healthcare received. As part of the ongoing collaboration with The Equator Network, PAHO was granted the first option to translate and publish this key guideline in its Journal. Welch V, Petticrew M, Tugwell P, Moher D, O’Neill J, et al. (2012) PLoS Med.</p>
	<p>Peer Review Congress: Workshop for editors and peer reviewers on reporting guidelines and Annual Lecture.</p> <p>Registration is still open for the EQUATOR workshop on “Reporting guidelines: a tool to increase the quality of health research published in your journal” that will take place in Chicago on Saturday September 7, from 9:30a.m. – 12:30p.m. As part of the Peer Review Congress, EQUATOR Network will also host the 5th Annual Lecture on September 9, from 6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. The lecture is free and no registration is necessary.</p>
	<p>Terminology on Guidelines</p> <p>“Guías para informar y publicar sobre investigaciones” is PAHO’s preferred translation for Research reporting guidelines for being a more precise term than the also employed “Guías para escritura y publicación de trabajos científicos”.</p>
<p>New articles</p>	
 <p>Compliance with clinical trial registration and reporting guidelines by Latin American and Caribbean journals</p>	<p>Compliance with clinical trial registration and reporting guidelines by Latin American and Caribbean journals</p> <p>The purpose of the study was to determine to what extent biomedical journals in Latin America and the Caribbean have endorsed and complied with clinical trial registration and reporting guidelines such as CONSORT, PRISMA, STROBE and EQUATOR Network. The article was published in <i>Cadernos de Saúde Pública</i>, accompanied by an editorial on the importance of open access, transparency, and quality of information in clinical trials. Reveiz L, Villanueva E, Iko C, Simera I. (2013). Cad. Saúde Pública</p>



Comparison of national health research priority-setting methods and characteristics in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2002–2012

This systematic review identified national health research policies and priorities agendas through a search of ministry and government databases related to health care institutions. Priority-setting methods were then compared to the “nine common themes for good practice in health research priorities”, and national health research priorities were compared to those of WHO’s Millennium Development Goals. Reveiz L, Elias V, Terry RF, Alger J, Becerra-Posada F. (2013) [Rev Panam Salud Publica](#)



World Health Organization Guideline Development: An Evaluation

The article studies the impact that the establishment of the WHO Guidelines Review Committee, created to oversee the implementation of internationally recognized standards, has had on the organization. Sinclair D, Isba R, Kredo T, Zani B, Smith H, et al. (2013) [PLoS ONE](#)

Announcements



Research for health CD in, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

A complete collection of research-related materials has been gathered in the Research for Health CD—available in PAHO’s official languages. The CD contains a variety of documents and information resources that support the Research for Health policy objectives. Complimentary copies of the CD will be available at various PAHO events.



New case studies produced by interns, and updated “internships” webpage.

The research internship page was recently revamped to better showcase the contributions that interns provide to PAHO. Readers are encouraged to read these two case studies “[Tranexamic acid and trauma patients](#)” and “[Scientific Journalism and Coverage of Health Research](#)” prepared by Stefanie Soelling and Daniella Restrepo, 2013 summer interns. See also upcoming internship [opportunities](#), meet our [current interns](#), or learn about the work that our [former interns](#) are doing now.