



RESEARCH FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER, JUNE 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



Subsidies for strengthening health systems and policies research

Applications for this plan of [short-term subsidies](#) closed June 15th. Submissions are now under reviewed. The program aims to strengthen research capacity in the area of health policy and systems in Latin American and the Caribbean. The selection of the research projects submitted will be based on scientific quality and feasibility of the results to be obtained within one year.

Investigación original / Original research

Clinical trial regulation in Argentina: overview and analysis of regulatory framework, use of existing tools, and researchers' perspectives to identify potential barriers

Lauren White¹, Zulma Ortiz¹, Luis G. Cuervo¹ and Eleanora Villanueva²

Former intern granted research scholarship

Lauren White, who interned at PAHO's Research Promotion & Development area while pursuing her Engineering degree from the University of Virginia, was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, as well as a fully funded position at the University of Minnesota in the Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior graduate program. For her internship Lauren collaborated with Dr. Zulma Ortiz, Member of PAHO's Advisory Committee on Health Research and was leading author for [an article on the barriers to clinical trial registration](#), recently published in the Pan American Journal of Public Health.

White L, Ortiz Z, Cuervo LG, Reveiz L. Clinical trial regulation in Argentina: overview and analysis of regulatory framework, use of existing tools, and researchers' perspectives to identify potential barriers. Rev Panam Salud Publica. 2011; 30(5):445–52.



Cochrane visit

Mark Wilson, recently elected CEO of the Cochrane Collaboration Global, visited PAHO accompanied by representatives of Cochrane Canada and Cochrane United States. The visit was organized by Luis Gabriel Cuervo and Eleanora C Villanueva, Research Advisors, with the support of James Hill, External Relations and Resource Mobilization. The purpose of the visit was to explore expanding the collaboration Cochrane PAHO. See more on the [strategic partnership](#) between Cochrane and PAHO.

International Meetings



EU-LAC meeting, Italy, April 11-12, 2013

EU-LAC Health's second "[Scenario Building Workshop](#)" was held in Rome. Luis Gabriel Cuervo participated in the meeting and chaired sessions as member of the Advisory Board. His participation was coordinated from the outset with the External Relations Area and other relevant PAHO Area Managers. Throughout the event, European and Latin American health sector experts met with project partners in order to discuss potential scientific areas and possible funding mechanisms for health research collaboration between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.



Brock-McMaster Global Health Forum, Canada, January 26, 2013

Dr. Vic Neufeld, national coordinator of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR), and Professor Ana Sanchez invited Luis Gabriel Cuervo to be a keynote speaker at the Global Health Forum co-organized by Brock and McMaster universities in alliance with CCGHR, which has collaborated with EVIPNet Americas in the past. "[Discovering Global Health in your future](#)" showcased PAHO's [Art for Research](#) project, showing how, in the context of health, art can be a medium to convey messages of development, equity and success. Luis Gabriel also discussed knowledge translation and presented EVIPNet as one of the strategies developed at PAHO in this regard.



Countries' News



UWI named Caribbean Branch of the US Cochrane Center (CBUSCC) in Jamaica

The University of the West Indies, Mona campus, through its Tropical Metabolism Research Institute will serve as the Caribbean Branch of the US Cochrane Center (CBUSCC). The announcement took place after a launch event at the UWI Regional Headquarters, Mona on June 6. Mark Wilson and Jeremy Grimshaw, CEO and Chairman of Cochrane Canada respectively, attended the ceremony along with Luis Gabriel Cuervo of the Pan American Health Organization, a longtime partner of the Cochrane Collaboration. Following the launch, on Friday June 7, a symposium titled "Translation Research for Policy Impact and Practice: An Evidence-based Approach" was offered to officials in Jamaica. See [more](#).



UWI, Mona Campus Research Days in Jamaica February 18, 2013

The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, hosted the 2013 Research Days this past February. The event, in its 14th edition, highlighted approaches to regional development under the theme 'Pathways and Opportunities for Regional Development'. It also convened and stressed the various ways in which the University is using its diverse research efforts to identify innovative solutions to major developmental challenges. See more about [Research Days](#) and the [full program](#).

Research policy implementation

EVIPNET



International Meeting on Ethnicity, Indigenous People, and Health Evidence Construction, Bolivia, May 8-10, 2013

The [meeting](#), organized by PAHO's Gender, Cultural Diversity, Human Rights and Bioethics Office, was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Evelina Chapman presented the strategy of the evidence-informed policy network (EVIPNet) and talked about how the use of evidences can improve the health of indigenous groups. Evelina also discussed the most pressing challenges in the construction of health evidences from an ethnicity and indigenous people perspective.



International Conference and High Level Meeting on Chronic Kidney Disease, El Salvador, April 24-25, 2013





The [International Conference on Chronic Kidney Disease](#) that took place in San Salvador had as main objective to update the entire national, sub-regional, and other invited countries' evidence, besides that of Central America and the Dominican Republic. The conference stressed the importance of generating policies that are informed by evidence and clinical guidelines, and technical assistance to accomplish the predetermined objectives was offered. Evelina Chapman, at the request of COMISCA, was invited to contribute to the harmonization of research processes. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the possible establishment of EVIPNet in El Salvador. [Official site](#).



EVIPNet workshop with COMISCA, Costa Rica April 1-5, 2013

The Executive Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Health from Central America and Dominican Republic (SE-COMISCA), held an EVIPNet workshops in collaboration with PAHO Research Promotion and Development for teams of the COMISCA countries. The workshop, organized by Evelina Chapman and Ruben Grajeda, PAHO, discussed Evidences for the Elaboration of Evidence Briefs for Policies and Deliberative Dialogues. One of the topics covered in the workshop was chronic kidney disease from nontraditional cause, a serious concern in Central America. The Health Minister, Dr. Daisy Corrales, adjourned the workshop, which coincided with the celebration for the World Health Day. See the event's [press release](#), more information on [EVIPNet Americas](#), and



	the products developed by the country teams.
	<p>Terminology change</p> <p>The EVIPNet Steering Committee has decided to replace the use of the term “policy brief” by the more accurate term “evidence briefs for policy”. The change has been in place since the steering group met in October 2012.</p>
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS	
	<p>Webinars: part of the collaboration with PAHO as training opportunities</p> <p>The Canadian Cochrane Centre webinar series offers an online learning opportunity at no charge. Usually conducted in English on Blackboard Collaborate, platform provided by PAHO, the series focuses on a wide range of research topics, such as the Cochrane Systematic Reviews and other research methodologies. Upcoming webinars can be found here.</p> <p>The Iberoamerican Cochrane recently offered its second series of webinars centered on knowledge translation and the integration of research evidence on health systems to inform policies for health. These webinars are in Spanish and aim to train Latin American personnel working in the health research field. You can also watch a series of videos prepared in collaboration with PAHO here.</p>
	<p>21st Cochrane Colloquium and 20th Anniversary</p> <p>The 21st Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Quebec City in September 19-23. This year’s theme is “Better knowledge for better health”. The event’s program and other relevant information can be found here. It will be particularly special because 2013 also marks the 20th anniversary of the Cochrane Collaboration. A series of commemorative events is underway, including videos, publications and events worldwide. The PAHO Cochrane Award will be delivered during the Colloquium. The theme this year is Prevention of Non Communicable Diseases through the promotion of Healthy Lifestyles.</p>
	<p>XII Iberoamerican Cochrane Meeting</p> <p>The XII Iberoamerican Cochrane Meeting took place in Monterrey, Mexico on May 20-22 and was honored for the first time with the presence of Mark Wilson, Cochrane Collaboration’s CEO. The event was very productive and encompassed several workshops and conferences, including one by Luis Gabriel Cuervo on “Transfer and implementation of research results in health policies”. The conference also gave participants a chance to network and to share their knowledge on informal scenarios.</p>
	COHRED releases its annual report



The Council on Health Research for Development, COHRED, has released its [2012 Annual Report](#). The report highlights COHRED's productive alliance with PAHO, especially with regards to strengthening national health research systems. It also cites a publication done in collaboration with PAHO's Research Promotion & Development Team (HSS/HS), a byproduct of the fruitful and longstanding partnership between PAHO and COHRED.



Peer Review Congress: Workshop for editors and peer reviewers on reporting guidelines and Annual Lecture

Registration is [now 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. Presenters include Professor Doug Altman, Dr. David Mother, Dr. Jason Roberts and Dr. Iveta Simera.

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 free lecture will be presented by Professor Kay Dickersin, director of the US Cochrane Center, and no registration is necessary.



EQUATOR Webinars on better research reporting

Forthcoming: CONSORT reporting guideline

“CONSORT Statement: guidance for reporting randomized trials” is the name of the webinar presented by Professor Doug Altman, founder of the EQUATOR network, with the support of PAHO. The free event will take place on June 24th, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT) via Blackboard Collaborate and will last approximately 1 hour. Registration is [available online](#) until June 19th.

Recently offered Webinar

“Transparent reporting of health research is essential”, a webinar led by Professor Doug Altman, can now be viewed [here](#). It is the first in a series of webinars on good health research reporting as part of the Collaboration agreement and the joint work of the EQUATOR Network and PAHO. Suggestions on themes are welcome.

The Equator Network has set a new LinkedIn and invites all professionals interested in improving research reporting to join **EQUATOR LinkedIn: Improving reporting of health research studies** <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/EQUATOR-Network-Improving-reporting-health-5032663>



New WHO Collaborating Centre

WHO has designated the Division of Mathematical Modeling, a division within the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), as the first WHO Collaborating Centre dedicated to complexity science and health systems decision-making. Work at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Complexity Science for Health System (called CS4HS) will help identify what components of health systems work and what needs improving, as well as support the development of new tools to address serious global threats in partnership with national and international health agencies and other stakeholders. The director of the new center is Professor Babak Pourbohloul. More information about their objectives is available [here](#).

New articles



Characteristics of Randomized Trials Published in Latin America and the Caribbean According to Funding Source

This systematic review evaluates the characteristics (including the risk of bias assessment) of randomized controlled trials conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean according to funding source: exclusively public, private, other (e.g. mixed, NGO), or no funding. Reveiz L, Sangalang S, Glujovsky D, Pinzon CE, Asenjo Lobos C, et al. (2013) [PLoS ONE](#)



Interventions for American Cutaneous and Mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis: A Systematic Review Update




The authors conducted a systematic review to assess the effects of therapeutic interventions for American cutaneous and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, an important public health problem in the region. Reveiz L, Maia-Elkhoury ANS, Nicholls RS, Sierra Romero GA, Yadon ZE (2013) [PLoS ONE](#).



Series of articles on systematic reviews, health policy, equity and development

This series of interesting articles from the Journal of Development Effectiveness on systematic reviews, health policy, equity and development includes pieces on the Millennium Villages Project in Northern Ghana; the effects of the Frontiers Prevention Project in Ecuador on sexually transmitted infections; and the effects of solar ovens on fuel use, emissions and health, among others. See the series [here](#).

Announcements

	<p>WHO's South East Asian Regional Office highlights PAHO's (WHO Regional office for the Americas) good practices</p> <p>WHO's South East Asia Regional Office is presenting the work of PAHO's Research Promotion & Development Team as a benchmark for their action plan on capacity building in health research for small countries (such as Timor L'Este, Maldives and Bhutan). The presentation, titled "Best practices in strengthening national capacity on health research", stresses how supporting better health research systems can improve people's health and make a difference in a short time.</p>
	<p>Call for papers: Journal of Environmental and Public Health</p> <p>This journal has issued a call for papers for a special edition on knowledge translation in environmental health to highlight the process that leads to better health and health policies. Submissions are due on August 2 and should offer insights into the use of research on environmental issues to improve health and equity.</p>
	<p>Erasmus Summer Programme 2013</p> <p>The Erasmus University Medical Center invites you to learn more about the Erasmus Summer Programme, directed at students, researchers, executives or advisors in the health sciences. The three-week program focuses on principles and methods of quantitative medical research. This year, it will take place from August 12-30 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.</p>