



Research for Health Newsletter

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

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**April
June
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SPOTLIGHT

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | Call for solutions 2017: Searching for new solutions to improve health care delivery



SEARCHING FOR NEW SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

Across Central America and the Caribbean, thousands of health-care workers, business owners, students, government workers, innovators and community members are tackling health issues locally and implementing solutions to make health care delivery more inclusive, effective and affordable.

These are the passionate agents of change we are looking for!

The Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) is a global collaboration of partners passionate about advancing community-based solutions in healthcare.

In 2007, building on the lessons learned by SIHI, The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is part of an international collaboration with Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Médicas (CIDEIM, Cali, Colombia), the Universidad Icesi (Cali, Colombia), the Universidad del Valle (Cali, Colombia) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Through the Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI), we are looking for innovative community-based solutions for health care delivery issues related to infectious diseases in Central America and the Caribbean (CAC).

We are looking for solutions that are empowering, addressing conditions, improving health and well-being, and addressing conditions and root causes that contribute to death.

1. Inspire others to learn from your experience and help address the common challenges in the region.

2. Be supported by national and global health policy makers.

3. There is a case study published on your solution.

4. Meet other social innovators in your region.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

1. **Share the word:** Complete the online form: [www.sihicac2017.org](#)

2. **Contact with us:** Send us an email to: sihi@paho.org

3. **Spread the word:** Share this opportunity with your friends #SIHICAC2017



The **Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI)** is a global collaboration of partners passionate about advancing community-based solutions in healthcare. Building on the lessons learned by SIHI, The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), as part of an international collaboration with Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Médicas (CIDEIM, Cali, Colombia), the Universidad Icesi (Cali, Colombia), and the World Health Organization Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR/WHO), is looking for innovative community-based solutions for health care delivery issues related to infectious diseases in Central America and the Caribbean (CAC). We are looking for solutions that are empowering indigenous communities; improving health and well-being; and addressing conditions and root causes that contribute to death. How to get involved? **1. Share any solution: complete the online form. 2. Spread the word: Share this opportunity with your friends #SIHICAC2017** Deadline to

apply: 31 July 2017 (noon CT) To apply click [here!](#)

WHO| New WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom visits PAHO



© Credit Samantha Brew

On Tuesday, June 13th the Director-General (DG) Elect of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, visited PAHO for a Town Hall Meeting to share his vision for the WHO and his plans to visit the World Bank, U.S. leadership, UNICEF, and others during his first regional visit as DG Elect. He also welcomed questions and recommendations from participants, staff, and the region to prepare for his role beginning on July 1st.

Three PAHO interns, including two scholars with **CONACyT Becas Extranjero**, contributed some suggestions and questions. Abdiel Torres, intern and current lead-Delegate of the PAHO Interns and Volunteers Association (PIVA), from Mexico and CONACyT, recommended addressing the financial barriers for internships that result from the lack of a funding mechanism to be consistent with the focus on diminishing inequalities that affect interns especially from low and middle income settings. Dr. Tedros then gave Torres his card and said, “Never hold yourself back from saying what you think.”



© Credit Samantha Brew



© Credit Alheli Calderon Villarreal

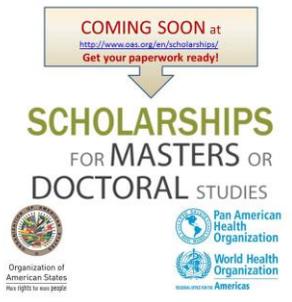
Alheli Calderon Villarreal, an intern also from Mexico and CONACyT asked about the DG Elect views on how WHO could promote social participation from populations in vulnerable situations when these groups lack official recognition as NGOs or other official organizational-representation within international standards. In his response, Dr. Tedros acknowledged the importance of improving social participation from all populations and a need to promote the balance of power distribution within Member States, and empowering these unprotected individuals.

Samantha Brew, an intern in Research asked about the steps that the WHO would pursue to encourage more policy makers to consider research/research evidence in policy decision making during global health outbreaks. Dr. Tedros replied that the WHO will identify institutions to partner with and gather research during outbreaks. To read an overview of Dr. Tedro’s visit click this [link](#) and for more information on WHO’s efforts to advance research for health surveillance during global health outbreaks click [here](#).



© Credit Samantha Brew

Get your paperwork ready for the next call for scholarships (masters and doctorates)



Interested in pursuing a master or doctorate degree and become a better equipped agent of change for health in your community? Keep an eye on <http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/> and [@PAHOResearch](https://twitter.com/PAHOResearch) as more opportunities arise through the OAS-PAHO Scholarships. The [OAS-PAHO agreement](#) has offered 289 scholarships for health masters and doctorates to professionals from 25 OAS countries, since 2014. PAHO and OAS provide tools and resources for scholars and faculty to excel at producing and using impactful research for health. This can be a great opportunity to advance your career and make a difference! Calls include programs in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Be ready to apply before going on vacation by prepping your curriculum vitae, identification, certificate of your academic grades, diplomas, and least two recommendation letters, and translations of these documents as appropriate.

AN ECO-FRIENDLY PAHO | PAHO hosts a paperless 46th ACHR.

© Credit Luis Gabriel Cuervo



The documents and recommendations of PAHO's 46th Session of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR, November 2016) are now available at PAHO's ACHR [website](#) [for [Spanish](#)]. The meeting had some novel features including a "fishbowl" dynamic to discuss the inter-programmatic integration of the Policy on Research for Health that promoted an open dialogue led by PAHO's Assistant Director. It also included a simulation by the Secretariat and interns to emphasize the importance of focusing capacity development on research teams and including expertise in management, communications, economics, and social sciences, among other disciplines needed for impact and sustainability. The ACHR was held as a paperless meeting; participants received iPads or links with the background documents and presentations in digital media and this avoided printing an estimated 19,500 pages.

LEISHMANIASIS | Epidemiological Report of Leishmaniasis in the Americas N5 Year 2017



The Epidemiological Report of Leishmaniasis in the Americas N5 Year 2017 has been released and is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Portuguese](#) in the PAHO/WHO website. This report emphasizes the occurrence of the disease in border area in the Americas region and the importance of joint collaboration, considering the different epidemiological scenarios. To learn more about PAHO's efforts focusing on Leishmaniasis, click [here](#).

RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

IN THE COUNTRIES

ANTIGUA GUATEMALA | Sub-Regional Meeting at AECID Center to Join Health and Academia Community



© Credit PAHO

PAHO convened a meeting at Guatemala's AECID Center in the city of Antigua on 24-25 April 2017. The meeting brought together authorities from academia and health from Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA Countries) and PAHO technical officers, to discuss the development of regional nodes and networks that strengthen

health systems. More specifically, it discussed the use of the best knowledge to work towards universal health care. At the meeting, delegates identified new and available resources for the production and use of knowledge and scientific research, and identified regional entities and networks that can lead the harmonization and coordination to address inequities in the access and use of knowledge across this region. The press release, documents, and presentations can be found at this [link](#).

GUYANA | CARPHA 2017 & Guyana Country Office Meetings on Opportunities and Implementation



CARPHA

On April 27-28, 2017 Guyana hosted the 2017 Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) conference on Caribbean Public Health Policy. Over 500 attendees gathered for the CARPHA 62nd

© Credit CARPHA

Conference and KBR engaged with many representatives including members from, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, the U.S. National Institutes of Health, and others to discuss opportunities to collaborate, technical cooperation, capacity building activities, and gaps to overcome relating to advancing research for health in the Caribbean. Dr. Salicrup, representing PAHO's Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research, presented on research capacity strengthening activities led by PAHO, and partnerships in the Caribbean over the past decade. He also informed of current and potential opportunities such as the **scholarships offered by PAHO with the Organization of American States**, training workshops, **internships**, and other opportunities and resources for Member States of the Caribbean region. Salicrup was also invited by PAHO/WHO's Guyana Representative, Dr. Adu-Krow, to meet with PAHO local staff and delegates from the Guyanese Ministry of Health and from the University of Guyana to discuss the advancement of PAHO's Policy on Research for Health and how it can enhance research for health capacities in the Caribbean, as well as the implementation of national health research agendas.

BRAZIL | Brazil Country Office Welcomes Two New Members!

© Credit PAHO/Brazil



The Brazil country office has welcomed Mr. Tomás Pippo Briant and Ms. Gilvania Melo as the focal points for research. Mr. Pippo-Briant is the new coordinator for the unit of Medicines, Technologies and Health Research in Brazil and Ms. Melo is a

new member of the Unit for Medicines, Technologies and Health Research. We welcome them to PAHO; more information on the Brazil office visit this can be found at this [link](#).

HONDURAS | Forum on The Ethics of Research in Pregnancy, August 2017



On August 22 and 23, 2017, the Forum on Research Ethics in Pregnancy will be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, within the framework of the XIII Central American and Caribbean Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, which will be held separately from August 22 to 26. Among the objectives of the Forum is to review and discuss the ethical aspects related to

research in pregnant women in order to promote their responsible inclusion. The Forum is being sponsored by a meeting fellowship that the [Global Forum on Bioethics in Research](#) (GFBR) makes available competitively among those attending the annual GFBR meeting. The Institute of Infectious Diseases and Parasitology Antonio Vidal is organizing the Forum taking place in August. For more information on the Institute and the August forums, click [here](#).

HONDURAS | National Medical Library Activities to Improve Access to HINARI/ RESEARCH4LIFE resource databases



The [National Medical Library of Honduras](#) is developing a training project that promotes access to resources in the [HINARI / Research4Life](#) database using the [Virtual Health Library of Honduras](#) platform and with additional participation from librarians, information managers and users from three cities, Tegucigalpa, San

Pedro Sula, and La Ceiba (August 2016-February 2018). The project is being sponsored by the [Medical Library Association of the United States of America](#) (MLA) through a grant that responds to HINARI / Research4Life Activities (R4L) and is ending in June. It aims to promote the use of information resources in the R4L initiative, especially the use of HINARI, in low-income countries. The project also aims to train HINARI / R4L resource managers on bibliographic reference management and knowledge organization tools, train users (undergraduate and postgraduate students, teachers, researchers and health workers) in HINARI / R4L resources, and establish a network of library training centers dedicated to promoting and training HINARI / R4L resources. For more information click [here](#).

ARGENTINA | As an Unprecedented Advancement in its Research Policy, the Ministry of Health of the Province of Buenos Aires Launched a Grant Program



The Ministry of Health of the Province of Buenos Aires has launched its first research grant program aimed at promoting research capacity building and production on priority health problems. The program comprises two complementary calls, both of which are anchored in synergies-creation between public health providers and academic institutions. "PIT-BA Call" funds T1 translational research projects focused on producing knowledge for

the development of new methods of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases. "Institutional and Multicenter Call" includes a research incentive program for T2 and T3 translational research projects, focused on the translation of research results into health services improvement as well as program and policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. Both calls are already at the proposals selection stage. The ultimate goal of the provincial public research policy is to ensure that results are traduced in real benefits for health services and people.

PERU| Institute for Health Technology Assessment and Social Security Research in Peru



In September 2016, the **Institute for Health Technology Assessment and Social Security Research** in Peru (IETSI-ESSALUD), through a participatory and multi-ethical process, defined 20 **priority research questions** for the institution for 2017 and 2018. Rather than focusing on biomedical aspects of diseases, many of them are related to the

study of health care processes and specific aspects of the health system to be improved. **In June 2017, the call is being opened for all national and international research groups interested in participating in the development of research studies that answer these questions.** The information obtained through these studies will serve to inform the respective improvement policies. More information can be found through email at manuel.catacora@essalud.gob.pe.

IN THE SECRETARIAT

RESEARCH RECOGNITION TO PAHO STAFF | Marcos Espinal



© Credit PAHO/WHO

Dr Marcos Espinal, Director of Communicable Diseases and Health Analysis at PAHO has been invited to serve for 3 years as a member of the Forum on Microbial Threats by the United States National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. [The Forum on Microbial Threats](#) was created in 1996 at the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to provide a structured discussion and scrutiny of critical, and possibly contentious, scientific and policy issues related to research on and the prevention, detection, surveillance, and responses to emerging and reemerging infectious diseases in humans, plants and animals as well as the microbiome in health and disease. The Forum brings together leaders from government agencies, industry, academia, and nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to facilitate cross-sector dialogue and collaboration through public debate and private consultation to stimulate original thinking about the most pressing issues across the spectrum of microbial threats. Congratulations Dr. Espinal!

MEET THE NEWEST TEAM MEMBER | Sophia Comas



© Credit Luis Gabriel Cuervo

Ms. **Sophia Comas** has joined the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research (AD/KBR) and the Department of Human Resources for Health (HSS/HR) at PAHO HQ in Washington, D.C. until August 2017. Sophia has completed her BS in Public Health with a minor in Management and Leadership from American University in 2017. She has also studied business at Pontificia Comillas (ICADE) in Madrid, Spain, and is fluent in both English and Spanish. She has worked as a research intern at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and as a policy intern for the ONE Campaign. She is very interested in evaluation and surveillance methods for disease outbreaks, and the correlation between research and communication. At PAHO, Sophia will help promote and expand the PAHO-OAS scholarships and fellowships programs, and also support human resources for universal health in the region of the Americas.

RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP | Conducting Research In Emergency Situations

Conducting research in health emergency situation is challenging and a rising topic. To share some perspectives on the subject, PAHO's Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research and the Health Emergencies Department invited Dr. Daniel Lucey, Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Georgetown University Medical Center (GUMC) to share his testimony as an emergency relief medic. The informal discussion took place at PAHO Headquarters on April, 18th 2017. Building from his experience during the Ebola outbreak, Dr. Lucey shared with the audience his story in Liberia as part as his work with Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF). **A key message was the importance of having dedicated researchers identifying the effects of innovations and interventions developed during the response, by health care providers.** More information on this RIG [here](#).



©Credit Luis Gabriel Cuervo

RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP | Balancing Benefits & Harms: A Research Agenda on Quarantine



©Credit Luis Gabriel Cuervo

A second RIG discussion on global pandemic outbreaks took place at PAHO Headquarters on May 30th 2017. While it can be difficult to conduct research during an emergency health outbreak, equally as challenging can be the decision to quarantine a community during these emergency situations. Various perspectives exist on this critical global health concern and the PAHO Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics, and Research and the Department of Public Health Emergencies invited Dr. Rebecca Katz, Professor of

International Health at Georgetown University and Co-Director of the Georgetown University Center for Global Health Science and Security, to share her outlook. During the discussion Dr. Katz shared three key considerations with the audience for developing a research agenda on quarantining: **1) the importance of clarifying lessons learned from past global health outbreaks, 2) a need to focus on state and local laws for social distancing, and 3) giving primary consideration to making the social implications of quarantines less negative for communities focusing on adhering to civil liberties while maintaining trust.** To learn more information on this RIG, click [here](#).

CSIS EVENT | Four Famines: Unprecedented Need, Underfunded Response



©Credit Samantha Brew

On June 5, 2017 a conference took place in Washington DC. The conference entitled “Four Famines: Unprecedented Need, Underfunded Response,” a CSIS discussion examined the extreme famines currently occurring in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. In the Americas, famine is also beginning in Haiti. In the first four countries mentioned, **600,000** children are predicted to die in the next few months, and **1.45** million children over the next 8 months are at risk of dying. This is the biggest humanitarian crisis

since World War II. Insecurity, due to **man-made conflict** and political unrest, is constraining access to provide food and for farmers to harvest crops.. Additional funding is needed in all four countries, and speakers [José Graziano da Silva](#), Director-General of the UN FAO and [David Beasley](#), Executive Director of the World Food Programme argue that it is more cost-effective to fund and aid these countries *now*, rather than when this crisis becomes a larger emergency. **The speakers made three key points: 1) peace is the most important precondition to aid in response and prevention, 2) local food production is fundamental to avoid famine, and 3) it is more cost-effective to prevent diseases for animals and to fund and provide food for these countries now. Research will be useful in aiding these three key points for statistics gathering, engaging key government and institutional stakeholders, and for promotional purposes.** The 2030 Sustainable Development Goal #2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,” is achievable, but *not* with man-made conflict. To view the entire discussion click [here](#).

PARTNERSHIPS

ARIZONA AND MEXICO | Arizona and Mexican Universities Sign Historic Alliance

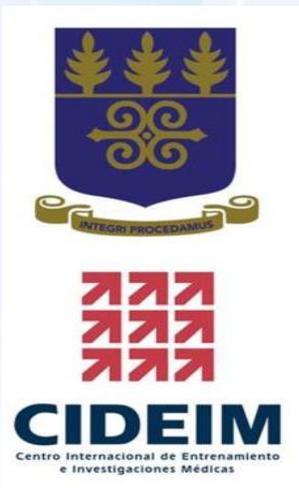


© Credit: Arizona-Mexico Commission

On March 29, 2017 Arizona's three state universities and Arizona Western College signed an agreement to collaborate with 7 colleges and technical schools from Baja California and Sonora in Mexico. The agreement encourages collaboration between eleven schools for building binational degree programs, promotes student exchanges, and facilitates cross-border research efforts. Some focus areas for the partnership will include engineering, health care, tourism and

business. This agreement is a result of the joint economic development efforts under **4FrontED**, a regional economic development initiative bringing together multiple cities including: Yuma, Somerton, San Luis, Welton and others, to work together on economic development efforts with San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora and Mexicali, Baja California. To get more info on the historic collaboration, click [here](#).

CIDIEM AND GHANA | South - South Collaboration: CIDEIM and Ghana University Carried Out Regional Course of Implementation Research



© Credit: CIDEIM

From June 5-9, 2017, "**Principles of Implementation Research**", the first course to strengthen research implementation was held in Cali, Colombia. This initiative, led by **The International Center for Medical Research and Training**, (CIDEIM), in conjunction with the University Of Ghana School Of Public Health, and support from the **WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases** (TDR), aims to decentralize capacity building for health research with a focus on prevention and control of infectious diseases. It addresses this goal through promoting effective knowledge translation and technological advances for health in communities and promotes principles of research implementation among key stakeholders such as public health officials, decision-makers, academics, and others from research institutions and expertise. During the 4-day course, participants from institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean engaged in activities regarding the effective implementation of health interventions led by Professors Emmanuel Asampong, PhD and Phyllis Dako-Gyeke, PhD, School of Public Health, University of Ghana. Other participants included leaders from the National Autonomous

University of Honduras, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador, University of the West Indies of Jamaica, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation of Brazil, Universidad del Valle, Universidad Icesi and CIDEIM of Colombia. More information on the training [here](#).

JAMAICA | Effective Project Planning and Evaluation in Biomedical Health Research



© Credit Shelly McFarlane

This train the trainer course on “Effective Project Planning and Evaluation in Biomedical Health Research” (EPPE) held May 2-5, 2017 in Kingston, Jamaica. The course was organized and supported by the PAHO, the Jamaica Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU), [CAIHR](#) (formerly TMRI) and [CIDEIM](#), Colombia. This train-the-trainers scheme that TDR/WHO and PAHO/WHO have implemented throughout Latin America and the Caribbean with support from the WHO-Collaborating Centre CIDEIM, represents further integration and dissemination of the EPPE methodology in the region. Five participants from Suriname, Grenada, and Jamaica were trained as trainers, raising to 8 the number of trainers in CARICOM countries.

The three and a half days hands-on training focused on mastering the competencies and skills needed to organize and deliver EPPE workshops within the trainees respective institutions, and subsequently at the national and regional levels.

The World Hepatitis Summit, São Paulo, Brazil, 1–3 November 2017



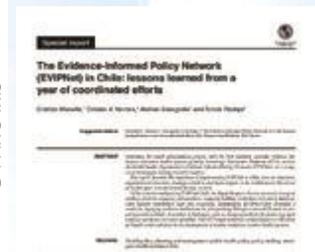
© Crédit WHA

The World Hepatitis Summit is a biennial global meeting to advance the viral hepatitis agenda. On 1–3 November 2017 governments, policy-makers, civil society and public health experts will meet at the Summit in São Paulo, Brazil to discuss original ways to implement the “Global health sector strategy

on viral hepatitis 2016–2021” (GHSS), and how to reach the overall goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. To learn more information about the Summit click [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

CHILE | The Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) in Chile: lessons learned from a year of coordinated efforts



© PAHO IRIS

The Pan American Health Journal published the article *The Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) in Chile: lessons learned from a year of coordinated efforts*, by Cristian Mansilla, Cristina Herrera, Andrea Basagoitia, and Tomas Pantoja. The article stresses the role of Knowledge Translation Platforms (KTP) to inform the health policy making processes. A key example of a KTP highlighted in the article is the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) in Chile. Describing the experience of implementing EVIPNet in Chile and the lessons learned, two of the positive

impacts mentioned were the Rapid Response Service -a good starting point for engaging policy makers, and EVIPNet Chile with a model for engaging academic institutions in policymaking through networks focused on preparing evidence briefs. To read the article click [here](#).

PAHJ | The Pan American Journal of Public Health Releases a Special Issue on Health Reform in Ecuador and Chikungunya



© Credit PAHO

The Pan American Journal of Public Health, PAHO's flagship scientific peer-reviewed publication, is highlighting the publication of two special issues focused on salient issues in regional public health: **Ecuador's recent reforms to its health system and Chikungunya**. The first, entitled Health System Reform in Ecuador and published in May 2017, examines the country's recent experience as it has moved to implement universal health after its 2008 constitution included the right to health. The articles focus on specific areas that have undergone major transformations and present the health system's accomplishments and challenges to overcome. The most recent special issue, Chikungunya in the Americas, which will be published the last week of June, aims to help bridge some of the gaps in evidence with regard to the management of the disease in the region. Its articles also aim to disseminate Chikungunya-related research findings from a public health perspective. The Special Issue on Health system reform in Ecuador is available [here](#). The Special Issue on Chikungunya will be featured on the journal [homepage](#). Please also connect with us on [Twitter](#) @pahowho_journal or sign-up for our [listserv](#) to receive the journal's most up-to-date content.

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

Call for Nominations: "Malaria Champions in the Americas 2017" Awards



© Credit PAHO

The "Malaria Champions of the Americas" Award recognizes programs, organizations or collaborations that operate at local or national level and have used innovative approaches to overcome the challenges of malaria in the Americas. The focus of the 2017 search is on malaria programs or efforts which demonstrate the use of malaria surveillance and / or universal access to malaria diagnosis and treatment as essential components of malaria elimination and prevention of re-establishment.. More information [here](#).

HEPATITIS | The World Hepatitis Summit



© Credit WHA

The World Hepatitis Summit has **launched a Call for Submissions** inviting individuals, groups and organizations to outline their original contributions (including scientific, social and community research, programmes, products and policies) and how these have, or may have, the potential to contribute to the response to viral hepatitis in their nation, region, or community. Presenting authors of successful submissions will be invited to present their work at the World Hepatitis Summit 2017. More information [here](#).

Additional Resources

INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & FUNDING | NIH, and Unite for Sight



© Credit NIH

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

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) offering grants for researchers in the Latin American and the Caribbean, interested in developing research applications for innovative mobile health (mHealth) technology projects/ideas. Click the blue links for more info on opportunities!



© Credit Unite for Sight

Volunteer abroad in Honduras, Ghana, or India in **Unite For Sight's Global Impact Corps**, or in **servicing as a Unite For Sight Global Health Leadership Intern in Unite For Sight's office** in New Haven, Connecticut. Click the blue links to learn more and apply for these opportunities!

ARGENTINA| Ministry of Health Releases June 2017 newsletter



Ministerio de Salud
Presidencia de la Nación

© Credit Ministerio de la Salud

The Argentina Ministry of Health released its June 2017 newsletter and includes updates on providing diplomas to winners of the 2017 Dr. Abraam Sonis health research scholarship, the First Annual Meeting of the National Advisory Committee of Research Ethics, Meeting of the Ministries

Network of Research for Health in the Americas, and a capacity workshop about research ethics committees. To view more information from the newsletter (Spanish only) please click [here](#) or email saludinvestiga@msal.gov.ar for more info.

MCMASTER FORUM| Eight years of supporting evidence-informed policymaking



© Credit McMaster Health Forum

The past year was another busy, but rewarding one for the McMaster Health Forum. They continued to maintain and continuously update **Health Systems Evidence**, which is the world's most comprehensive source of synthesized research evidence about how to strengthen health systems and get the right programs, services and drugs to those who need them. **HSE offers full functionality in Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish, with support from Cochrane Canada and PAHO/WHO**, as well

as other partners in low- and middle-income countries. The Forum also helped to address pressing health challenges by preparing five **rapid syntheses** (21 completed to date) as well as organizing, executing and evaluating

six **stakeholder dialogues** (49 since 2009) and 18 **citizen panels** (20 citizen briefs and 33 panels to date). The Forum continued to organize **workshops** and has now trained thousands of health-system leaders from more than 60 countries. More information [here](#).

COCHRANE | Training Opportunities and Global Evidence Summit



© Credit Cochrane

The Cochrane institute has an archive of many opportunities to improve research for health in the LAC region! Live online **training opportunities** and information on how to conduct, edit, and read systematic reviews, and other training. Cochrane Canada also has **online live webinar trainings** on evidence informed issues such as critical appraisal, bias methods, ethics, and more! The Global Evidence Summit will take place September 13-16 in Capetown, South Africa! Participants will hear from speakers and participate in plenary sessions and debate focusing on evidence-based research and also be able to view oral and poster presentations on “real-world evidence, capacity building for dissemination and implementation” and much more! Click [here](#) to **register before June 30th for an early bird ticket** and to learn more about the conference.

STUDENTS FOR BEST EVIDENCE | 34 Key concepts on treatment effects



© Credit Students for Best Evidence

Confusing claims about the effects of treatments – from drugs to diets – are everywhere. People need to know how to assess these claims. A list of 34 key concepts has been developed that people can use to assess claims about the effects of a treatment. This list has been developed by an **Informed Health Choices** project team. An example of a key concept is: ‘treatments can harm’. In recognition of how important it is that we understand these concepts, Students 4 Best Evidence (S4BE) has launched series of 34 blogs that explain each of them, using **examples**. **S4BE** is an international blogging network for students. All of the blogs will be written by, and for, students. You will be able to find all of the blogs on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. If interested in blogging and more information on S4BE, click [here](#).

GESI| First Anniversary Celebration



© Credit GESI

In celebration of its first anniversary, the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI) Secretariat based at the American University of Beirut (AUB) held the following events: A seminar on “The Use of Evidence synthesis in the Environmental field and the concept of systematic maps” on May 31st. Dr. Neal Haddaway, from the Mistra Council for Evidence Based Environmental Management, delivered the seminar that was highly attended and was livestreamed on GESI’s social media (**Facebook** and **Twitter**). GESI also hosted a two-day workshop on “**The Use of Evidence Synthesis in the Environmental field**” on June 1st and June 2nd at AUB led by Dr. Neal Haddaway. Finally, GESI hosted a webinar on “**Making systematic reviews policy relevant**” delivered by Dr. John Lavis, Canada Research Chair in Evidence-Informed Health Systems at McMaster University, on June 7. This was the first webinar of the GESI-Cochrane Learning Live (CLL) webinar series.

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

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Contributions: We invited contributions from PAHO technical areas, PAHO country offices and specialized centers, PAHO's Advisory Committee on Health Research, WHO Collaborating Centers and other strategic partners.

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