Partnership to Implement the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer in the Americas: Prioritizing Systems Strengthening

- **Names of authors:** Catherine G. Lam¹, Liliana Vasquez², Patrícia Loggetto¹, Soad Fuentes-Alabi², Alejandra Gonzalez Ruiz¹, Sara Benitez Majano², Marta Jarquin-Pardo¹, Mauricio Maza², John Spencer¹, Monika L. Metzger¹, and Silvana Luciani²

- **Speaker name/title:** Dr. Catherine G. Lam
  Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Childhood Cancer

- **Department/Institution name:**
  ¹ Global Pediatric Medicine, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
  ² Pan American Health Organization
Cancer is a **leading cause of death** in children and adolescents; each year, 29 000+ children will develop cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean; at current health systems capacity, 10 000 will die from this disease.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (SJCRH) as WHO CC for Childhood Cancer has partnered with PAHO/WHO to prioritize childhood cancer in the context of **systems strengthening**.

Article summarizes collaborative work to apply **C5** (**C**ountry **C**ollaboration for **C**hildhood **C**ancer **C**ontrol) tool to define and implement priority actions regionally, strengthening Ministry programs for childhood cancer, while implementing the **Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer**.
Using C5, SJCRH and PAHO/WHO co-hosted regional & national workshops engaging authorities, clinicians and other stakeholders across countries to map health systems needs and prioritize strategic activities.

- **c2: Mapping Institutions, Organizations and Roles**
  - Clarifying context + actors + internal/external factors beyond the clinic impacting children with cancer

- **c3: National Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats**

- **c4: Health Systems Key Areas Matrices**
  - Prioritizing activities for action considering time, values, political will and resources

- **c5: Priority Collaborative Portfolios**
How does this activity support the Organization's goals and mandates?

- Results across 10 countries applied to inform country-specific and regional action plans
- National workshops analyses have been incorporated into cancer control planning activities and collaborative work regionally
- Implementation success factors identified, including engaging actors beyond the clinic, enabling flexibility, and focusing on co-design with stakeholders
- Joint implementation of C5 catalyzed prioritization and accelerated strategic activities to improve policies, capacity, and quality of care for children in the Americas, supporting Ministries to integrate childhood cancer interventions as part of systems strengthening