



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



13rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

13rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 3 - 13 October 1961

RESOLUTION

CD13.R7

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON MORTALITY STATISTICS

THE 13rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that the Pan American Health Organization has received a grant from the United States Public Health Service for the regional development of epidemiological studies in which an inter-American survey of the causes of death will be carried out in collaboration with participants in ten cities of the Americas, who will make a thorough study of a representative sample of cases to obtain information on the diseases that were the causes of death;

Considering that the results of this study of 40,000 deaths (the causes of which will be uniformly assigned by medical specialists who will review the clinical, laboratory, and pathological records) will provide essential comparable data that will serve as a basis for epidemiological studies and for programs of research on population groups in the Region of the Americas with widely differing medical and social backgrounds; and

Considering that this research program will also influence the development of standards for the diagnosis of diseases and of terminology in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish, and that it will stimulate the teaching of diagnosis and medical certification in medical schools and thus directly and indirectly improve the accuracy of medical statistics in the Americas,

RESOLVES

1. To recommend that the Member Governments give full support to the development of the research program on mortality statistics so that the benefits of this first intensive regional investigation of mortality may be fully utilized not only to provide clues for epidemiological studies but also to improve the quality of mortality statistics, which are indispensable for health planning.
2. To recommend to the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that the Organization assist the investigators in the cities selected so as to ensure that these coordinated investigations provide comparable basic data and that the results of this research program are fully utilized in health services, in epidemiological studies, and in teaching in medical schools.

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