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PAHO RESEARCH POLICY

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PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

PAHO RESEARCH POLICY

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PAHO RESEARCH POLICYBACKGROUNDResearch in WHO

Article 18 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization lists among the functions of the World Health Assembly:

"to promote and conduct research in the field of health by the personnel of the Organization, by the establishment of its own institutions or by cooperation with official or non-official institutions of any member with the consent of its government."

This has been a guiding principle for WHO, although in 1949 it was accepted that WHO "should not consider at the present time the establishment, under its own auspices, of international research institutions."

In 1958, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution requesting the Director General:

"to organize and arrange for a special study of the role of WHO in research and the ways in which the Organization might assist more adequately in stimulating and coordinating research and developing research personnel."

In 1959, the Assembly formally approved a plan for research and the proposal to set up an Advisory Committee on Medical Research to provide the Director General with scientific advice.

The Sixth General Program of Work for the period 1978-1983 made specific reference to research:

"Biomedical and health services research is essential to the accumulation of the knowledge required to devise appropriate measures for improving health."

The two main objectives in the promotion of research were:

a) to identify research priorities, strengthen national research capabilities and promote international coordination of research, especially with respect to problems of major importance to WHO; and

b) to promote the application and proper transfer of existing and new scientific knowledge and research methods to serve as the basis for the development of comprehensive national health services.

The more recent Seventh General Program of Work for the period 1984-1989 has as its objective in relation to research:

"To promote research related to health and coordinate the development of relevant scientific activities in this area."

The main approaches to be taken are through:

- a) building up research capability and systems for health research management;
- b) promoting national health research policies;
- c) stimulating research in areas such as the behavioral, social, economic and determinants of health;
- d) disseminating pertinent information, e.g. research findings, guidelines for research methodology; and
- e) sponsoring meetings of Advisory Committees on Medical Research.

Research in PAHO

Research has to be a fundamental aspect of the work of the Organization if it is to carry out its function which is to "combat disease, lengthen life and promote the physical and mental health of the people."

With the establishment of its Regional Centers, PAHO also committed a considerable amount of funds to research. These centers over the years have contributed a great deal to knowledge in their specific fields.

In 1960, however, PAHO applied to the USPHS for a grant to carry out the studies needed to enable PAHO to establish the basis for a sound, effective, and productive expansion of its research program. The agreement between the two institutions led to a statement of arrangements establishing

the basis for (1) staff collaboration between the two Organizations, (2) further development of PAHO research activities with USPHS funding, and (3) definition of forms of USPHS aid that may be applied to PAHO research activities.

The Office of Research Coordination was established in 1961 out of this Agreement, to assist the Director and the technical branches of the Organization in carrying forward the studies which can provide the basis for a sound, effective and productive expansion of its research policy and program. As a part of the activities in this field, the Director established the PAHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research in 1962, composed of 12 distinguished scientists, educators and administrators of the Americas.

All of the above was considered at the 43rd meeting of the Executive Committee and Resolution CE43.R18 states:

"Having considered the report of the Director on planning for the PAHO research program and the steps already being taken for the expansion of research in the Region; and

Considering that such expansion of research will be of benefit to the health and medical programs throughout the Americas,

RESOLVES,

1. To approve the plan and policies outlined by the Director in Document CE43/16, and to transmit the report to the XIII Meeting of the Directing Council.

2. To request the Director to make the necessary action for all possible further expansion of the research activities of the Organization for the mutual benefit of the countries of the Region."

The first statement of a policy on research in PAHO was contained in the Director's report to the 16th Pan American Sanitary Conference and reads as follows:

PAHO Policy on Research

"The outlines of a research policy for PAHO that emerge from the considerations previously discussed are clear. The policy has evolved over a period of years as the Organization has gained experience in solving problems in the pursuit of its long-term objectives. However, in facing up to its developing and greatly expanded future responsibilities, in large part reflected in the aforementioned documents, it is well to state explicitly the policy which, with the approval of the Conference, will guide the Organization's action program in the quadrennium ahead.

The research policy of PAHO is to assist the Americas in the development of the necessary research resources for solving the most pressing health problems of the people.

The guiding philosophy of the proposed policy is that poor health and disease involve the complex functions of the human organism as a biologic entity, and inseparably also the interaction of the individual with his social and physical environment. In short, biomedical research embraces the study of all the biological and environmental factors which if out of balance and uncontrolled may cause ill health, disease, and incapacity of the individual to function as a normal human being.

To develop healthy modern living conditions involves investigation of how a community, be it rural or urban, lives -an analysis of its systems of communication and cultural institutions and patterns, and of the physical environment within which its health services function. From these basic research data, practical plans can be developed involving not merely needed medical care services, but also the necessary participation of the people themselves in all aspects of preventive medicine and disease control in order to create a healthy, sanitary environment at home, at work, and at play.

As was stated at the outset of this report, the expanded research program as it is being developed, will be related to the particular needs and opportunities for research existing within the countries. It will emphasize research projects requiring coordinated effort by more than one country and research activities that will stimulate a wider application of existing and new knowledge to the special problems of each country. Research which will solve operational problems of the programs themselves will be undertaken, including especially research that will assist the Americas in implementing the health aspects of national development

plans. Besides the growing resources of the Americas, PAHO will draw upon the diversified experience of the World Health Organization. The research activities of both Organizations will be fully coordinated, bearing in mind the opportunities and special needs and requirements of the Americas." (CSP 16/35).

The following were the main aspects of the implementation of the policy:

- assistance to Member Governments to assess the states of their research resources;
- assistance to countries when they sought to pool scarce resources in an international center;
- promotion of the interest of funding organizations;
- expediting communications among research workers and public health officials as well as among educational and research institutions;
- sponsorship of conferences, media of communication;
- initiation of a program of research traineeship; and
- establishment of an Office of Research Coordination.

In the past 20 years there have been several presentations to the Governing Bodies of PAHO on research, and the appropriate relevant resolutions have been extracted in Annex (1). With the formalization of a PAHO policy on research, the Advisory Committee on Medical Research (ACMR) was envisaged as playing a key role. From its inception, the ACMR has been regarded as the body which should be advising the Director of PAHO on research policy. The Committee at that time viewed its role as dealing with research and certain related areas such as training and education. It concerned itself with reviewing the projects and areas which PAHO was supporting and examining various new initiatives. This was the method by which it advised the Director on the appropriate policy directions which the Organization should take.

THE CURRENT PAHO POLICY ON RESEARCH: A conceptual framework

The definition of an appropriate PAHO research policy is based on a synthesis of several documents:

1. The pertinent resolutions of the Governing Bodies (Annex 1);
2. The reports of the PAHO Advisory Committee for Medical Research for the Director;
3. The Pan American Conference on Health Research Policies;
4. The Regional Strategies for Health for All by the Year 2000;
5. The Plan of Action for implementation of the Regional Strategies;
6. The Plans for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
7. The New Mission of PAHO, by the Director of PAHO; and
8. A Declaration of Principles by the Director.

The policy an organization takes with regard to research depends on the basic mission of that organization. The prime function of PAHO is to "manage knowledge" rather than to be primarily a research organization. Research is one of the tools which PAHO employs and it is not committed to a large outlay in producing the new knowledge over a wide range of areas. This concept of management of knowledge has been well set out in the introduction to the Program Budget for PAHO (1984-1985):

"The concept of the management of knowledge encompasses its generation through research, its collection, its critical renewal, its dissemination, and collaboration in its most efficient use within the countries. In promoting research, there must be a firm intent to reduce existing inequalities in the technological capacities among countries, a determination to assure the appropriateness of research for the analysis of national health problems, and a focus on the removal of obstacles to equal access to health services. Critical inquiry can identify cardinal problems, pinpoint strengths and weaknesses in current scientific and technical knowledge and promote a synthesis to facilitate access to the entire population. Harmonizing that knowledge to the diverse national realities is essential to a meaningful interpretation of events, to the selection of options for action and to their implementation."

PAHO therefore has to be involved in the promotion of the generation of knowledge, much of which must be applied in the short term to the solution of problems. PAHO must work through and with professionals in all countries with their different levels of economic and scientific development. In this situation, it is not appropriate to rely exclusively on investigator initiated research. The focus has to be on identifying those gaps in knowledge which are essential for the solution of the health problems at the national level and promoting and supporting national research efforts to fill those gaps. However, no system should be so rigid as to inhibit the individualism which may produce brilliant new discoveries.

The appropriate view for an international health organization is that research is to be directed toward societal needs and goals. Inevitably, most of the funds for health research are public funds and therefore there is some logic in proposing that there should be perceived public good emanating from research efforts. In situations in which resources are plentiful, there is often less pressure for research to be utilitarian. However, in the current economic climate which exists in all the countries of the Americas, funds spent on research should be scrutinized very carefully to ensure that the public good is being served.

The Final Declaration of the Pan American Conference on Health Research Policies states the following:

"an endeavor which is absolutely essential and has as its fundamental objective the development of knowledge and technologies which will lead to the solution of health problems both current and future and consequently an improvement in the well being of our people."

We hold to the view as expressed in the Sixth Report of WHO on the world health situation that research "begins with the people and ends with the people."

PAHO cannot determine what priority is given to health research at the national level. It can however promote the kind of research and research management which will ensure maximum returns for the inputs made.

This approach does not in any way imply that PAHO will not be alert to the advances being made in the health sciences. The technical excellence required of PAHO personnel demands that they are informed of pertinent research in their fields and utilize every possible mechanism to utilize this information to strengthen the PAHO programs of technical cooperation.

PAHO RESEARCH POLICY

On the basis of these antecedents, the research policy of PAHO may be restated thus

The research policy of PAHO is to promote the identification of the gaps in knowledge which impede solution of national health problems and to cooperate with the countries of the Americas in carrying out in a coordinated manner the research necessary to fill those gaps.

The three main activities of PAHO will be in the areas of promotion, cooperation and coordination.

The types of research to be support in this context and the priorities in various areas will be the result of discussion in PAHO's technical programs. Globally, however, research will fall into the three categories set out in the Plan of Action as being important, i.e.

biomedical research
socioepidemiological research
operational research.

The ordering of these does not imply any priority and as stated in the Final Declaration from the Pan American Conference on Health Research Policies, it is pointless making a distinction between basic and applied research. As stated in the report of the first meeting of the PAHO/ACMR, 'all genuine good quality research is fundamental if it contributes to the more complete understanding of the multifaceted aspects of complex problems. This is particularly so when dealing with man who is the central object of its concern. Fundamental science is not distinguished by the use of mathematical, physical or chemical methods per se, but by the relevance of the research to an intellectually and practically satisfactory solution of the problem at hand.'

IMPLEMENTATION OF A RESEARCH POLICY

For the successful implementation of a research policy there must be defined instruments and mechanisms by which these instruments are used. There must also be some formal method by which the policy can be evaluated and kept up to date. The PAHO Secretariat will have the responsibility of implementing the PAHO research policy, always bearing in mind that the indicator of success is not any intrinsic feature of the polity itself, but the extent to which productive activities take place at the level of the countries. Two important instruments which PAHO will use are its Research Grants Program and its Program for Institutional Development. The Advisory Committee for Medical Research is the body which will keep the policy under constant review.

The Role of the Secretariat

The Technical Programs

The new structure of the Organization and the allocation of duties and responsibilities has placed the major responsibility for promoting the generation of the necessary appropriate knowledge in the technical programs. It is envisaged that the technical programs, on the basis of national needs, will establish the priority areas in which PAHO will promote research and offer cooperation to national efforts. Such cooperation may take the form of assisting national researchers to identify those areas of research which are most essential in terms of solving specific health problems. Technical cooperation may proceed to the stage of assisting in the development of specific research protocols and proposals whether or not any part of the research is funded by PAHO. PAHO is ideally situated to promote inter-country programs and priority should be given to collaborative and comparative intercountry research.

The Office of Research Coordination

This Office will be concerned with advising the Director on research policies and promoting the development of research policies at the national

level. In order to do this effectively, there must be timely information on the state of research in the Region and the determinants of trends in research. This Office will also work with the Technical Programs in supporting the promotion of research in appropriate areas. The administrative aspects of a PAHO research grants program will also be the responsibility of this Office. For further description of the functioning of this Office see Annex (2).

The PAHO Research Grants Program

PAHO will maintain a research grants program for the essential purpose of cooperating with national investigators or groups of investigators who are studying problems which have been identified as priorities by the technical programs. The technical programs will generally have been involved in the development of the proposed line of research or at least will be intimately familiar with it. The system to be used to decide on the provision of funds to these investigators will be based on two principles:

- a) the research is within the context of national priorities and has been identified and promoted as such by the PAHO technical programs;
- b) the mechanism for decision on support is based on an open system of review.

For outlines of the process see Annex (3).

Institutional Development

Wherever possible, PAHO's efforts in promoting, coordinating and giving technical cooperation in research should contribute to strengthening national institutions. Development of national capability for research is one way of ensuring that national problems become priority research themes. PAHO will also promote interinstitutional collaboration, by means of the network of collaborating centers whenever possible. One method of institutional strengthening which PAHO can utilize is a carefully monitored system of research training grants administered in the same open way as the research support to investigators.

The PAHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research (ACMR)

The ACMR is composed of 19 distinguished health researchers from the Region who have been selected on the basis of the following criteria:

a. Position in country of origin

It is important to have members who can speak authoritatively about situations in their own countries and can influence the course of research and research policy. It is therefore ideal to have members who are representative at the institutional level of Ministries of Health, Research Councils, National Academies, health research centers of national scope and universities.

b. Country of origin

The membership of the ACMR should be representative of the country membership of PAHO within the limitations of a committee comprised of 19 persons.

c. Specialty

The specialties and disciplines of the members should reflect the program priority areas of the Organization.

d. Sex

In keeping with Resolution XXVII of the 21st Pan American Sanitary Conference, which dealt with Women and Development, every effort should be made to have women members.

The main function of the ACMR is to advise the Director on PAHO's research policies and programs. The current membership of the ACMR and a brief history are found in Annex (4).

KEY RESOLUTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES WHICH DETERMINE A RESEARCH
POLICY AND PROGRAM IN PAHO

Policy

- 1 - In 1961 the Director was requested to take the necessary action to intensify the research activities of PAHO for the benefit of the countries of the Region (CE43.18, CD13.38).
 - PAHO should intensify its activities to promote research for the improvement of planning methodology (CSP17.21).
- 2 - Note should be taken of the concern of the PAHO ACMR for areas of research that provide the greatest contribution towards solving problems such as diarrheal diseases, health services research, ethical review committees and research information (CD27.R11).
- 3 - The Director should make greater use of the ACMR in defining priorities and promoting programs which will help the Organization reach its goal of Health for All (CD27.R11).
- 4 - The Director should take all possible steps to expand the research activities of the Organization including specific projects and their financing and submit annual reports to the Directing Council (CSP16.26).
- 5 - Approval was given to cooperating with national research councils and other appropriate bodies in studying national resources in the health sciences and communication systems in scientific research and upon request to assist Governments in establishing national research councils (CD14.31).
- 6 - The Organization should give all possible advisory services and collaboration for the development in the various countries

of research in the field of public health, as a necessary support to the health activities that are being conducted by the countries (CD15.31).

- 7 - The Director was authorized to continue to utilize the resources of PAHO, within the terms of its approved program and budget to augment and complement the multinational research and research training programs that it administers at the request of other organizations (CD17.24).

Programs

- 1 - Agreement was expressed with the policy of accelerating research studies in environmental health and biosocial and biostatistical research dealing with health conditions and the economic and social aspects of health and with medical care including administrative research to improve health services and medical care programs (CD14.31).
- 2 - Recommendation was made to governments that they make every effort to improve the training and research institutions for the development of health manpower and research activities, giving maximum financial and other support to ensure the necessary cooperation on a national and international basis (CD15.31).
- 3 - The Director was instructed to include in the PAHO regular budget increasing amounts assigned to the research and research training program with more emphasis in the areas of the administration and delivery of health services, housing and environmental control and chronic diseases (CD20.R34).
- 4 - The Director should strengthen the capacity of the Organization to deliver technical cooperation in the countries in the

area of health research and give priority to the areas addressed by the ACMR, particularly acute respiratory infections of children (CSP21.R23).

RESEARCH COORDINATION OFFICE

1. Terms of Reference
2. General Purpose
3. Objectives
4. Strategies

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Research, like all the other major activities of the Pan American Health Organization, has to contribute the achievement of the basic mission of the Organization as set out in the Constitution:

"The fundamental purposes of the Pan American Health Organization (hereinafter called the Organization) shall be to promote and coordinate efforts of the countries of the Western Hemisphere to combat disease, lengthen life, and promote the physical and mental health of the people."

Research has to be a tool for producing new knowledge or evaluating what is already known in order to provide ultimately the technologies which will permit the member countries to "combat disease, lengthen life, and promote the physical and mental health of the people." The need for PAHO to be involved in research stems also from the fact that the Constitution of WHO states that one of its functions "shall be to promote and conduct research in the field of health."

In this regard, one of the problems faced by WHO and PAHO is that the state of development of research and the importance paid to research are often a reflection of the level of development in the country. The view is often taken that the immediacy of acute problems of resource limitation make research a luxury. In many instances where there is lack of a strong tradition of research activism the society does not realize that many of the problems will only be solved by investment in research to produce viable options.

There is a lack of clearly defined research policies in several countries, resulting in disarticulation of effort. Many of the institutions involved in research do not see themselves as committed to producing knowledge of direct relevance to the problems of the country, and their researchers draw their ethic from role models based in different environments with different sets of interests and problems. One of the roles of PAHO is to promote the attitudinal changes which are necessary for the growth of a strong regional research effort.

PAHO clearly cannot provide direct support to the countries and institutions at a level sufficient to direct research along specific lines. Even if this were possible, it would be undesirable. Permanence of research directives and policies have to be derived from national efforts to which PAHO lends critical support. This support must serve to expand the research potential which exists in the countries. The lack of uniformity in research effort and potential is in itself a challenge for PAHO which must promote efforts by which stronger countries aid those which are less developed in the research sense. The potential to be developed obviously is both human and physical.

PAHO itself as an organization will also have to be involved in conducting research, and indeed is ideally situated to carry out important research of a comparative nature. This research will permit the technical units to focus their programs of cooperation more sharply.

Thus, PAHO will be engaged in promoting the development of research and the research potential at the level of the countries as well as initiating comparative research across a wide range of fields. PAHO must also be aware of, and involved with, relevant research programs in other international agencies and organizations and must collaborate actively with them in promoting research and research development in areas of interest to the countries. In this way, PAHO will be involved in generating and managing the new knowledge which is necessary at this time.

This approach to research and research promotion gives the rationale for the existence of a coordinating mechanism for research in PAHO.

2. GENERAL PURPOSE

The general purpose of this office will be to provide a focal point for the coordination of the research activities in PAHO, in order to maximize the development and application of the kind of knowledge

necessary for the solution of national problems within the resources available. It will also pursue activities which can contribute to providing optimal conditions for the development of research especially in the countries.

3. OBJECTIVES

a. To provide assistance to the Office of the Director in the development and review of PAHO's research policies and ensure that these policies and their implications are known throughout the Organization.

b. To facilitate the development of national research policies.

c. To promote technical cooperation between countries in the area of establishment and implementation of health research development mechanisms.

d. To establish a coordinating mechanism for the administration of a PAHO Program of Research Grants.

e. To provide the secretariat services for the Advisory Committee on Medical Research (ACMR) and assist in operationalizing the recommendations of the Committee.

4. STRATEGIES

A. PAHO's Research Policies

The major strategy for achieving this will be to establish a truly consultative mechanism in PAHO by which the opinions of a number of persons can be marshalled. It is proposed to create an Advisory Group comprised of persons representing the focal points for research in the technical units. Such a Group would work with the office of Research Coordination, to:

a. draft research policies for PAHO, based on the needs of the countries and the mandates of the governing bodies;

b. define joint inter-unit research activities based on the needs of the units to define the gaps in knowledge in specific technical areas;

c. devise the appropriate mechanism for making PAHO's policy on research well known within and outside of the Organization; and

d. to provide a diagnosis on the research situation in the countries, and to assist, when required, in the formulation of plans for research development in the context of the country sector analyses which are being planned.

A. Development of National Research Policies

The strategy would be to identify the agencies in the countries which are responsible for these policies and, in countries where such policies do not exist, to cooperate in elaborating them. The cooperation which will be offered will include activities designed to improve the knowledge base on which policies can be established and executed. These include:

- a. definition of appropriate scientific indicators;
- b. development of research on health sciences, their growth and trends;
- c. development of, and assistance with, planning methodologies for research at the national level;
- d. improvement of the managerial capacity for research in all those national agencies with activities related to health research, e.g. Ministries of Health and Social Security, Research Councils and the Research Institutes; and
- e. promotion of the consideration of the ethical aspects of research involving human subjects.

C. To Promote Technical Cooperation In Research Development

This will be done primarily through institutional development. Although support has to be given to individual researchers or groups, it is essential that their institutions be strengthened to provide for continuity of effort. WHO has recognized the importance of the collaborative institutional effort and has promoted the formation of a network of Collaborating Centers. The prime responsibility for identifying institutions to be designated Collaborating Centers will rest with the technical units. An office of Research Coordination will be responsible for the administrative aspects of the designation and redesignation of such Centers and the efforts to form an operational network.

D. Coordinating Mechanism for PAHO Program of Research Grants

The strategy will be to devise a mechanism which will ensure that the technical units exercise their responsibility for identifying and promoting research activities in the countries according to established priorities and at the same maintain a uniform, open system by which research proposals can be reviewed and research grants awarded. The mechanism will be through the Advisory Group mentioned in (A). Such a Group will work with the Office of Research Coordination on the system by which grants will be reviewed and decisions made. The focus of the program will be active support by PAHO in priority areas rather than soliciting and receiving applications from researchers in a large number of areas.

E. Secretariat to the ACMR

The Office will serve as secretariat to the ACMR and its subcommittees. It will coordinate the recommendations of the Committee in a manner consistent with the research policy of the Organization.

SYSTEMS FOR HANDLING RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING GRANTS IN PAHO

Objectives of the Research Grants Program

The objective of the program is to allow PAHO to offer cooperation in areas which are of priority for the solution of national programs and are not now being considered for support from other sources.

Origin of Request for Support

The request for support will normally arise as a result of promotion of important lines of research by the appropriate PAHO technical program and/or the PAHO country offices. Before the project reaches the stage of a formal proposal, the technical program will normally have been involved in its planning and development. When a proposal is received which has not been developed with the technical program, it will be referred to the technical program which may then wish to refine it further with the investigator (or group of investigators) if it is within the national priorities.

Form of the Request

The final proposal to PAHO should be in a standard format. This ensures some measure of uniformity and facilitates evaluation.

Review

The proposal will normally be reviewed by persons inside PAHO as well as by external referees. The technical program will participate in the review process and the selection of the external reviewers.

The Office of Research Coordination with the assistance of the Research Advisory Group will be responsible for collating the opinions of all the reviewers and making recommendations to the Director who will take the final decision as to which projects should be funded.

NB: 1) The administrative steps leading to final submission of a proposal

should be done in collaboration with the PAHO country representative.

- 2) Projects have to have approval of the national authorities where required.
- 3) Projects involving human subjects have to conform to the "Ethical Standards for Research Involving Human Subjects" as accepted by PAHO and will be reviewed by the PAHO Ethical Review Committee.
- 4) Research training grants follow a similar process except that approval from the training institution is requested and the trainee undertakes to return to work in his country on completion of the training.

THE PAHO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

Background

In 1962, the Director of PAHO reported to the XVI meeting of the Pan American Sanitary Conference on the PAHO Research Policy and Program and one of the key aspects of the implementation of that policy was the creation of an Advisory Committee on Medical Research. At its first meeting, the Committee was charged with recommending "the basis of a long term research policy for present and future projects, to be approved by the Governing Bodies of the Pan American Health Organization."

The Committee meets annually and meetings have been held in Washington, Brasilia, San José, Lima, and Caracas.

Functions of the ACMR

A document on Management of Research in WHO (DGO/78.2) describes the general function of the Regional ACMRs as advising the Regional Directors on:

a) the policy applicable to WHO's health research activities in the regions, within the framework of the global WHO research policy and in accordance with the directives provided by the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committees;

b) the formulation of regional research priorities, in line with the objectives of the General Programme of Work covering a specific period and the medium-term program of the Organization, as applicable to the Region, and on the basis of the priority needs of the countries of the region;

c) the development of the research potential and capability of countries in the region;

d) the establishment of suitable mechanisms for research development and coordination in the region and for cooperation with other regions and with the global level of WHO's operation; and

e) the evaluation of research activities in the region.

The Chairman of the ACMR presents a report to the Directing Council on the meeting of the Committee and the recommendations which have been made.

The Committee recently has found it convenient to work through sub-committees to deal with specific areas which warranted further exploration. These Subcommittees considered health services research, social science research, and respiratory infections of children. It is felt that once these committees have examined the area and made specific recommendations, their work should become part of the normal responsibilities of the PAHO secretariat.

Membership

The current members are as follows:

Dr. Antonio Sergio Arouca	Professor Escuela de Saúde Pública Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Dr. Robin Badgley	Professor c/o Committee of Sexual Offences Against Children and Youths Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Dr. Pierre Bois	President Medical Research Council of Canada Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Dr. Carol Buck	Faculty of Medicine The University of Western Ontario London, Ontario, Canada
Dr. Roberto Caldeyro-Barcia	Profesor Director Departamento de Perinatología Hospital de Clínicas "Dr. Manuel Quintela" Montevideo, Uruguay
Dr. José Rodríguez Coura	Vice-Presidente de Pesquisa Fundacao Oswaldo Cruz Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Dr. Hernando Groot*	Asesor Instituto Nacional de Salud Bogotá, Colombia
Dr. Rodrigo Guerrero	Rector Universidad del Valle Cali, Colombia
Dr. David A. Hamburg	President Carnegie Corporation of New York New York, USA
Dr. Alina Llop	Vice Directora Dirección de Docencia e Investigación Hospital Hermanos Ameijeira La Habana, Cuba
Dr. David Picou	Chairman and Project Manager Mount Hope Medical Complex Task Force Port-of-Spain, Trinidad
Dr. Frederick C. Robbins	President Institute of Medicine National Academy of Sciences Washington, D.C., USA
Dr. Guillermo Soberón	Secretario de Salubridad y Asistencia Secretaría de Salubridad y Asistencia México, D.F., México
Dr. Ceferino Sánchez	Rector Universidad de Panamá Panamá, Panamá
Dr. Andrés O.M. Stoppani	Profesor Facultad de Medicina Universidad de Buenos Aires Buenos Aires, Argentina
Dr. Raimundo Villegas	Ministro de Estado para la Ciencia y Tecnología Caracas, Venezuela
Dr. Kerr L. White	Deputy Director Division of Health Sciences The Rockefeller Foundation New York, N.Y., USA

*President

Dr. Fabián Yañez

Quito, Ecuador

Dr. Rodrigo Zeledón

Director
Consejo Nacional de Ciencias y Tecnología
San José, Costa Rica

The Site and Date of the Next Meeting

The 22nd meeting will take place in Mexico City, July 7-9, 1983.