

**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH
ORGANIZATION**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON MEDICAL RESEARCH**

SECOND MEETING

**17-21 June 1963
Washington, D.C.**

CURRENT PAHO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Ref: RES 2/30

3 June 1963

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

REVIEW OF PAHO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES DURING 1962*

At this Second Meeting of the PAHO/ACMR, we believe it would be appropriate to recall the steps that led the Pan American Health Organization to embark upon an expanded program for medical research in the Americas, to restate the general objectives that have guided the Office of Research Coordination in developing this program and to describe its *modus operandi*.

Cognizant of the importance of research as an essential component of a comprehensive program for the improvement of health in the Americas, the Organization requested and obtained in 1961 from the National Institutes of Health/USPHS, a research planning grant which made possible the bringing together under the newly created Office of Research Coordination the various research components of the regular PAHO programs as well as entrusting to the new office the task of developing and implementing an expanded research program for the Organization.

The PAHO intensified program is primarily concerned with:

1. Research in fields related to the program effort of PAHO;
2. The solution of research problems which are better resolved by multi-country cooperative endeavors;
3. Stimulating and supplementing rather than replacing national efforts or the activities of other international or national organizations and philanthropic institutions in the field; and
4. Accelerating the development of bio-medical research in the Americas by promoting the training of research workers.

*Prepared for the Second Meeting of the PAHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research, 17-21 1963, by the Deputy Chief, Office of Research Coordination, PASB.

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To carry out these objectives, the following fields were identified in the preliminary phase of the program as requiring evaluation of needs and opportunities for research: research training, environmental health, dental health, maternal and child health, nutrition, Chagas' disease, malaria, schistosomiasis, leprosy, plague, arthropod-borne virus diseases, zoonoses, radiation and isotopes, health economics and medical care.

To review and appraise the research potential of those fields, 50 consultants and 25 staff members were utilized in order to:

1. Assess the present state of knowledge;
2. Define the main problems;
3. Indicate the research needed to solve these problems;
4. Summarize the relevant research currently underway, particularly the research being carried out in the Western Hemisphere;
5. Identify the research most likely to produce fruitful results through international cooperation;
6. Assess the resources available in terms of materiel and trained personnel in the centers where research can best be carried out;
7. Indicate the magnitude and priorities of the financial, materiel and manpower investments needed for the research;
8. Recommend supplementary research support, if needed.

In the selection of consultants, an effort is made to appoint individuals who: a) are actively engaged in research in the field for which their advice is sought; and b) are knowledgeable both in the Latin American research community and in the possible sources of research support.

To evaluate the resources and formulate research proposals in

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connection with items 5, 6, 7 and 8 above, the consultants make site visits to institutions and laboratories where active research programs in the fields under review are known to exist.

In 1962, the recommendations and conclusions following the site visits by the consultants were presented to the PAHO/ACMR at its first meeting for the Committee's evaluation and review and for the ascribing of priorities. After studying these reports the Committee recommended to the Director of PAHO the fields of research that the Organization could profitably cultivate during the initial stage of its research program. Document RES 1/19, incorporating the Committee's report and a summary of the reports of the consultants, was submitted to NIH as a progress report of the research grant and as supportive data accompanying the request for an extension of the grant for one additional and terminal year. This document also served as the basis for the Director's report on the PAHO Research Program presented to the XVI Meeting of the Pan American Sanitary Conference in Minneapolis in September, 1962. The resolution of the Conference approving the program paved the way for including in the 1964 operating budget of PAHO the funds needed to finance the activities of the Office of Research Coordination, thus assuring continuity of the PAHO research program.

During the 12 months since the last meeting of the PAHO/ACMR major emphasis has been given to implementing the Committee's recommendations. In the course of this week's meeting, progress reports on current research will be made for those items of the research program which the Committee considered at the last meeting. These will be covered by the first four items of the agenda. The report of the Advisory Group on Research in

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Zoonoses heads the list of new activities, beginning with item five, and surveys research needs and opportunities in this field following an extensive visit by the Consultants in June - August 1962 to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

To comply with the request of the Committee that at this session it "would welcome proposals for research on respiratory virus diseases which are suspected to contribute largely to mortality and morbidity in Latin America", two consultants were appointed to appraise prospects for investigations in this field. Their observations and conclusions following site visits in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile appear in document RES 2/2 to be presented by Dr. Maurice R. Hilleman.

A PAHO Scientific Group on Research in Endemic Goiter was convened this April in Caracas, Venezuela, at the Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas to explore in detail the kinds of scientific studies which would be most profitable to undertake with the personnel and resources that are or could become available in Latin America. The report of this meeting, which includes an outline of proposed investigations by the participants, will be presented by Dr. John Stanbury as document RES 2/20.

The reports of two planning conferences on research on congenital malformation (RES 2/3) and on epidemiological research on cancer (RES 2/7) will be reported by Dr. Ruth R. Puffer and Miss Mary Burke, respectively.

Item 6 of the agenda starts a precedent which it is hoped will be maintained in subsequent meetings of the Committee, namely, to devote

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a full day to an evaluation in depth of research needs in a single field of inquiry. The topic selected for this meeting is tuberculosis and we are indebted to Drs. McDermott and Dubos for accepting the responsibility of organizing the scientific sessions and suggesting the panel of discussants.

In conjunction with the meetings of the 7th International Congresses of Tropical Medicine and Malaria and the 8th International Congress of Leprology in Rio de Janeiro next September, PAHO is convening five one-day working groups on research in arbo- and respiratory virus diseases, serology of leprosy and chemotherapy of Chagas' disease, which will bring together the active research workers in these fields to define research problems and their priorities, to determine the willingness of these investigators to participate singly or jointly in the solution of these problems and to explore the role of PAHO in stimulating further investigations.

The table appended to this document attempts to summarize under three headings (new grants, continuation grants and grants under consideration) the main research activities associated with the PAHO research program for the period January 1, 1962 to the present. The data contained therein lists principal investigators and institutions, research subjects, source and magnitude of funds and duration of research projects.

Most of the grants classified as new grants (pages 1-4 in the Table) and as grants under consideration (pages 10-12 in the Table) represent implementation of recommendations by the Committee and by the consultants at the first meeting of the PAHO/ACMR. If the research proposals still

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under consideration by granting agencies are not included, the total funds available to investigators whose research activity was directly stimulated by PAHO and falling within the research program formulated by this Advisory Committee is approximately \$2.4 million for the current year. It is conservatively anticipated that in 1964, the research grant funds will increase to about \$2.8 million assuming that half of the proposals now under consideration will be approved.

ANNEX

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
SINCE 1 JANUARY 1962

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RES 2/30

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
SINCE 1 JANUARY 1962

PART I
NEW GRANTS
(Nos. 1-12)

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

SINCE 1 JANUARY 1962*

I. New Grants

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Grant Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in years)	
1	Dario RESTREPO School of Dentistry University of Antioquia Medellin, Colombia	Salt Fluoridation Study in Four Colombian Communities (NIH)	\$83,874 Jan. 1963	\$250,961 (5)	31 Dec. 1967
2	William M. HENDERSON PANAF TOSA Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	A) Epizootiological Survey of Foot-and- mouth Disease on Tie- rra del Fuego B) Study of Survival of Foot-and-mouth Disease Virus in Cured Beef C) Other Activities as Approved (AID)	\$237,000 June 1962	\$237,000 ** (1 1/2)	31 Dec. 1963

* Compiled by the PAHO Office of Research Coordination on 15 June 1963
 ** Includes \$71,900 for construction and equipment. Extended to 30 June 1964

Research Grant Proposals - Part I (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of fund)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Grant Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in years)	
3	Jorge M. VELASCO-ALZAGA PAHO Washington, D.C.	Mental Health Information Center for Latin America (NIH)	\$36,384 Jan. 1963	\$105,050 (3)	31 Dec. 1965
4	Joaquín CRAVIOTO Moisés BEHAR INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Influence of Nutritional Status on Mental Development (AAACC) (MMF) (NF)	\$30,820 Sept. 1962 \$10,000 Nov. 1962 \$10,000 Jan. 1962	\$ 61,640 (2) \$ 20,000 (2) \$ 30,000 ()	Oct. 1964 Oct. 1964 Dec. 1964
5	Leonardo MATA Virginia PIERCE INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Interrelation of Viruses, Diarrhea and Nutrition (NIH)	\$33,607 Oct. 1962	\$ 93,835 (3)	30 Sept. 1965

Research Grant Proposals - Part I (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termin- ation
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in years)	
6	Joginder E. CHOPRA PAHO Trinidad, West Indies	Pathogenesis and Prevention of Anemia in Trinidad (NIH)	\$ 21,713 May 1963	\$ 41,113 (2)	30 Apr. 1964
7	Ramón VILLARREAL PAHO Washington, D.C.	Needs for Physicians in Latin America and Medical Education Programs: Plan- ning Conference (MF)	\$ 29,000 May 1963	\$ 29,000 (6/12)	Oct. 1963
8	Moisés BEHAR INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Development of Elementary School Teaching Materials (nutrition) (KF)	\$ 6,700 Feb. 1962	\$ 20,100 (3)	31 Jan. 1965
9	Ruth R. Puffer PAHO Washington, D.C.	Exogenous Causes of Con- genital Malformations: Plan- ning Conference (NIH)	\$ 19,510 Nov. 1962	\$ 19,510 (5/12)	31 Mar. 1963

Research Grant Proposals - Part I (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in years)	
10	A.J. WALKER Psychiatric Service State Health Department Ribeirão Preto, Brazil	Screening Center for Drug resistant Plasmodia (SMF)	\$ 14,500 Jan. 1963	\$ 14,500 (10/12)	31 Oct. 1963
11	Mary H. BURKE PAHO Washington, D.C.	Epidemiological Research on Cancer in Latin Ame- rica (NIH)	\$ 10,920 Sept. 1962	\$ 10,920 (1)	31 Aug. 1963
12	Nelson CHAVES School of Medicine University of Recife Recife, Brazil	Research on Protein Mal- nutrition in Recife (NRC)	\$ 10,000 May 1962	\$ 10,000 (1)	30 Apr. 1963

Total of 14 new grants \$554,028

\$943,629

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
SINCE 1 JANUARY 1962

PART II

CONTINUATION GRANTS

(Nos. 13-36)

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

SINCE 1 JANUARY 1962

II. Continuation Grants

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount requested and grant period		Date of Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in years)	
13	Ruth R. PUFFER PAHO Washington, D.C.	Interamerican Investigation of Mortality (NIH)	\$231,358 Jan. 1963	\$630,029 (5)	31 Dec. 1965
14	Moisés BEHAR Guillermo ARROYAVE INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Metabolic Factors in Protein Malnutrition (NIH)	\$ 57,526 Jan. 1963	\$417,150 (7)	31 Dec. 1967
15	Malaria Eradication Branch, PAHO, and the Ministry of Health of El Salvador	Malaria Epidemiology Study Teams (SMF)	\$125,865 Jan. 1963	\$408,038 (3)	
16	Werner ASCOLI Nevin S. SCRIMSHAW INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Interrelations between Diarrhea and Malnutrition (NIH)	\$ 79,274 Feb. 1963	\$389,254 (5)	31 Jan. 1964
17	Malaria Eradication Branch, PAHO, and the Ministry of Health of El Salvador	Insecticide Testing Teams (SMF)	\$159,865 Jan. 1963	\$373,920 (3)	

Research Grant Proposals - Part II (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termi- nation
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in years)	
18	Malaria Eradication Branch, PAHO, and the Ministries of Health of El Salvador, Mexico, Guate- mala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica	Mass Drug Administration Pilot Projects (SMF)	\$298,435 Jan. 1963	\$363,885 (2)	
19	William M. HENDERSON PANAFIOSA Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research (OAS/TCP)	\$315,063 Jan. 1963	\$359,603 (1)	31 Dec. 1963
20	José MENDEZ DE LA VEGA INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Training in Nutritional Sciences (NIH)	\$ 54,250 June 1962	\$273,527 (5)	31 May 1966
21	Carlos TEJADA José MENDEZ INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Relation of Atherosclerosis to Environmental Factors (NIH)	\$ 57,614 Jan. 1963	\$272,337 (9)	31 Dec. 1965
22	George G. GRAHAM British American Hospital Lima, Peru	Infantile Diarrhea and Mal- nutrition in Perú (NIH)	\$ 49,190 Sept. 1962	\$258,984 (5)	31 Aug. 1965

Research Grant Proposals - Part II (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termi- nation
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in yrs.)	
23	Carlos TEJADA INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala Henry C. McGILL, Jr. Louisiana State University New Orleans, Louisiana	Atherosclerosis in Latin America (NIH)	\$ 48,300 Oct. 1962	\$241,500 (5)	30 Sept. 1964
24	Guillermo ARROYAVE Adrian JANSEN INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Biochemical Evaluation of Nutritional Status (NIH)	\$ 46,148 Jan. 1963	\$238,283 (5)	31 Dec. 1965
25	Dorothy WILSON Nevin S. SCRIMSHAW INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Infection and Human Nutrition- al Status in the Tropics (NIH)	\$ 44,651 Jan. 1963	\$223,818 (5)	31 Dec. 1965
26	William F. SCHERER Cornell University Medical College New York, New York	Infectious Diseases: Virology, Ornithology, Ecology, Tropical Medicine (NIH)	\$ 31,698 July 1962	\$219,389 (5)	30 June 1967

Research Grant Proposals - Part II (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in yrs.)	
27	Ricardo BRESSANI Moisés BEHAR INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Amino Acid Metabolism in Human Subjects (NIH)	\$ 44,523 Jan. 1963	\$215,530 (5)	31 Dec. 1964
28	Abraham HORWITZ PAHO Washington, D.C.	International Research Planning Program (NIH)	\$ 92,500 Jan. 1963	\$213,250 (2)	31 Dec. 1963
29	Ricardo BRESSANI Edgar J. BRAHAM INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Biochemical Research in Agricultural Crops and Industrial By-products (RF)	\$ 25,000 Nov. 1962	\$ 75,000 (3)	31 Oct. 1963
30	John J. KEVANY PAHO Washington, D.C.	Nutrition Research and Training in the National Institute of Nutrition, Ecuador (WWVF)	\$ 18,500 Feb. 1961	\$ 60,750 (3)	31 Jan. 1964
31	José MENDEZ DE LA VEGA INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Comparative Biochemical Study in Populations with High and Low Frequencies of Coronary Heart Disease (NF)	\$ 6,000 July 1963	\$ 56,000 (8)	30 Jun. 1965

Research Grant Proposals - Part II (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in yrs.)	
32	Department of Health British Guiana	Chloroquinized Salt Program (SMF)	\$ 18,236 Jan. 1963	\$ 36,236 (2)	31 Dec. 1963
33	Guillermo ARROYAVE Nevin S. SCRIMSHAW INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Significance of Diets Low in Animal Protein and Other Nutrients (NF)	\$ 5,000 July 1963	\$ 25,000 (5)	30 June 1965
34	John J. KEVANY PAHO Washington, D.C.	Evaluation of Clinical Signs of Nutritional Status (NIH)	\$ 6,849 June 1962	\$ 21,697 (3)	31 May 1963
35	Benjamin D. BLOOD CEPANZO Azul, Argentina	Studies on Methods of Treating Canine Echino- coccosis (NIH)	\$ 4,600 Dec. 1962	\$ 11,500 (2)	30 Nov. 1963
36	Malaria Eradication Branch, PAHO, and the Ministry of Health of El Salvador	Malathion Studies (SMF)	\$ 2,600 Jan. 1963	\$ 2,600 (1)	31 Dec. 1964

Total of 24 continuation grants . . \$1,823,045 \$5,387,280

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RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
SINCE 1 JANUARY 1962

PART III

GRANT PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION
(Nos. 37-45)

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
SINCE 1 JANUARY 1962

III. Grant Proposals under Consideration

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in yrs)	
37	Abraham Horwitz PAHO Washington, D.C.	Development of Permanent Institutional Resources for Research Training and Ex- change of Research Person- nel in the Health Sciences in Latin America (AID)	\$294,600 Jan. 1964	\$2,069,000 (4)	31 Dec. 1967
38	Ruth R. PUFFER PAHO Washington, D.C.	Exogenous Causes of Conge- nital Malformations (NIH)	\$234,324 Dec. 1963	\$1,557,068 (5)	30 Nov. 1968
39	Ismael MENA Catholic University of Chile Santiago, Chile George C. COTZIAS Brookhaven National Lab. Upton, L.I., New York Irvin M. LOURIE (Project Coordinator) PAHO Washington, D.C.	Manganese Poisoning: A Metabolic Disorder (NIH)	\$ 40,530 Sept. 1963	\$ 290,370 (5)	31 Aug 1968

Research Grant Proposals - Part III (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount requested and grant period		Date of termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in yrs)	
40	Fernando VITTERI INCAP Guatemala City, Guatemala	Influence of Nutritional Status on the Physical Working Capacity (SGO/US Army)	\$ 49,570 July 1963	\$198,497 (4)	30 June 1967
41	G.V. TAPLIN and B. CASSEN University of California Los Angeles, California I. MENA Catholic University Santiago, Chile E.J. GARCIA University of Porto Alegre and L.C. LOBO University of Brazil Brazil I.M. LOURIE PAHO, Washington, D.C.	Liver Disease in South America (NIH)	\$ 81,325 Jan. 1964	\$157,475 (3)	31 Dec. 1966
42	Juan C. GOMEZ N. IVIC Caracas, Venezuela William F. BALDWIN Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. Chalk River, Canada	Irradiation Effects on the Biology of Rhodnius Prolixus (NIH)	\$ 35,400 Jan. 1964	\$106,300 (3)	31 Dec. 1966

Research Grant Proposals - Part III (cont'd)

No.	Principal Investigator and Institution	Research Project (and source of funds)	Amount Requested and Grant Period		Date of Termination
			Amount; renewal or starting date	Total requested (duration in years)	
43	Benjamin D. BLOOD CEPANZO Azul, Argentina	Studies on Methods of Treating Canine Echino- cocciosis (NIH)	\$ 10,409 Dec. 1963	\$ 31,243 (3)	30 Nov. 1966
44	John J. KEVANY PAHO Washington, D.C.	Meeting of Investigators on Protein Malnutrition (WWF)	\$ 10,000 Oct. 1963	\$ 10,000 (3/12)	31 Dec. 1963
45	Boris SZYFRES CEPANZO Azul, Argentina	Rapid Whole Blood Test for Brucellosis (NIH)	\$ 500 Nov. 1962	\$ 500 (1)	7 Nov. 1963

Total of 9 proposed grants . . \$756,658 \$4,420,453

PART IV

ABBREVIATIONS

AAACC = American Association for the Aid of Crippled
Children

AID = Agency for International Development

KF = W.K. Kellogg Foundation

MMF = Milbank Memorial Fund

NF = Nutrition Foundation

NIH = National Institutes of Health

NRC = National Research Council, U.S.A.

OAS/TC = Organization of American States/Technical
Cooperation Program

RF = The Rockefeller Foundation

SGO/US Army = Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army
Medical Research and Development Command

SMF = PAHO Special Malaria Fund