



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



26th PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE **54th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

Washington, D.C., USA, 23-27 September 2002

Provisional Agenda item 8.2

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REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH RESEARCH

Every year, the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) has the opportunity and privilege of presenting the highest Governing Body of PAHO with a report on the discussions of the eminent scientists who comprise the Advisory Committee on Health Research and their recommendations on PAHO technical cooperation activities in research. The XXXVII meeting of the ACHR, held this year from 12 to 14 June at PAHO Headquarters, was exceptional with respect to other annual meetings of this Committee. In commemoration of the PAHO Centennial and the 40th anniversary of the ACHR's uninterrupted operation, this year's meeting coincided with the holding of a scientific event at the highest level.

The event was called "Science, Health, and Development: Achievements and Challenges in One Hundred Years of PAHO" and consisted of five panels on topics related to the five strategic orientations of the Organization. The goal in all the panels was to adopt a historical perspective, highlighting the achievements of the past and noting the opportunities and challenges for the future of research in the Region, taking into account the situation and trends of the specific problems in each area. There were presentations and discussions on the potential impact of new scientific advances on public health and PAHO's role in providing support for the formulation and implementation of policies that will permit the realization of that potential. A copy of the meeting's agenda is annexed, detailing the panels and their members.

The presentations and panel discussions yielded a series of common policy lines geared to strengthening the scientific and technical capacity of the countries of the Region and promoting better utilization of research findings to improve health. Regarding the policy lines for strengthening scientific capacity, new approaches and experiences were mentioned, such as the construction of networks for collaboration between investigators from countries inside and outside the Region. Instead of creating new specialized centers involving high investments in buildings, these activities are

characterized by investment in highly specialized teams, human resources development, and the adoption of the new information and communication technologies. Connecting investigators with their national and international peers, networks multiply the potential of existing institutional and human resources and facilitate collective efforts for the development of joint projects. They also foster the active participation of investigators from the Region in the global networks that produce the most important scientific advances. Another area of common interest for the different panels was promoting efforts to familiarize the various sectors of society, especially decision-makers, the private sector, and the general public, with current activities in science. The panels discussed a series of activities and proposals to achieve this objective.

All presentations and debates were videotaped and will be the subject of a series of publications in electronic and print format targeting a wide audience of investigators, professionals, and other interested parties. The presentations can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.paho.org/Spanish/HDP/HDR/Noticia-CAIS-02.htm>

In addition to this commemorative event, the meeting of the ACHR included an additional session, in which members of the Global ACHR participated. The objective of this session was to discuss the report of the WHO Conference on Biotechnology and Genomics for Improvement of Health in Developing Countries, held in Havana, Cuba, from 25 to 27 March 2002, and the WHO report on national health research systems scheduled for publication in 2004.

The Conference on Biotechnology and Genomics was attended by nearly 100 participants from every continent. Using a multidisciplinary and multiprofessional approach, it addressed the following topics:

- implications of scientific advances in genomics and biotechnology for health and health care;
- ethical, social, and legal implications of the new advances in these areas;
- experiences of the developing countries in biotechnology and their application to health care, particularly the Cuban experience;
- recommendations of the WHO Report on Genomics and World Health (<http://www.who.int/genomics>) and the strategies for their eventual implementation in the developing countries.

One of the main concerns of the Conference was to avoid creating a "genomics divide," i.e. generating new inequities in access to the benefits of genomics and biotechnology. A series of recommendations were issued to promote greater participation by the developing countries. Special emphasis was placed on the promotion of

collaborative networks of several types (South-South; North-South; public-private; and intergovernmental) to build capacity. The goal was to develop proficiency in the new technologies, promote adequate management of transfer mechanisms and intellectual property, and strengthen the production and marketing of biotech products, as well as other aspects. The ACHR supported the recommendations of the Conference, urging PAHO and WHO to provide technical cooperation and regulatory guidelines so that the Member States can develop the necessary scientific, technological, regulatory, and ethical base to ensure that advances in this field can be effectively applied to improve the health of their populations.

Regarding the World Health Report 2004 of WHO, devoted to evaluating the performance of the national health research systems, the ACHR took note of the evaluation methodology being developed with the broad participation of specialists from various countries. Several meetings are being held with this objective, the next of which is scheduled for October in Malaysia, with participants from all the Regions. Two countries from the Region of the Americas, Brazil and Costa Rica, have been selected for pilot projects on the application of this methodology. The ACHR underscored the importance of the initiative and expressed its appreciation for the participatory process used in developing the methodology. It also stressed the importance of taking advantage of the experience with previous reports, advising that efforts be made to avoid ranking the countries and strict standards adopted for the quality and source of the data.

Annex



**Pan American
Health
Organization**

Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

Celebrating 100 years of Health

ACHR 37/2002.1
Original: English/Spanish

**XXXVII MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH RESEARCH
PAHO Headquarters , Room A
Washington, D.C., 12–14 June 2002**



Science, Health and Development: Achievements and Challenges in One Hundred Years of PAHO

Agenda

Wednesday, 12 June

8:15 to 9:00 a.m.

Opening Session:

Address by the ACHR Chairman: **Dr. Jorge Allende**
Address by IADB President: **Mr. Enrique Iglesias**
Address by PAHO Director: **Dr. George A. O. Alleyne**

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

First Session:

Health in Human Development

Coordinator:

Dr. Mario Bronfman, Executive Director, Health Systems Research Center, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico

9:05 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Introduction:

Dr. Ichiro Kawachi, Director, Harvard Center for Society and Health, Department of Health and Social Behavior, Harvard School of Public Health, and ACHR Member

9:20 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

The Relationship between Health and Development

Dr. Paul Farmer, Partners in Health, Program in Infectious Diseases and Social Change, Harvard Medical School

9:55 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Advancements in Knowledge about Population Health Determinants

Dr. César Gomes Victora, Professor, Epidemiology Graduate Program, School of Medicine, Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil, and ACHR Member

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Knowledge and Development, the Role of the New Information and Communication Technology

Dr. Pierre Levy, Professor, University of Québec at Trois Rivières, Département. Sciences du loisir et de la communication sociale

11:25 a.m. – 12:00 m.

The Role of PAHO/WHO in Health and Development

Dr. Juan Antonio Casas, Director, Division of Health and Human Development

12:00 m. – 12:15 p.m.

Commentator:

Dr. Heinz-Rudolf Sonntag, University of Massachusetts - Amherst

12:15 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Discussion

Wednesday, 12 June

2:00 to 5:30 p.m.	Second Session:	Health Promotion and Protection
	Coordinator:	<i>Dr. Terrence Forrester</i> , Director, Tropical Metabolism Research Unit - University of the West Indies, and ACHR Member

- 2:05 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Priority Research Strategies for a New Public Health with Emphasis in Health Promotion
Dr. Ilona Kickbusch, Professor and Head of the Division of Global Health at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University School of Medicine
- 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Mental Health Promotion and Prevention: Evidence of Effectiveness
Dr. Sheppard G. Kellam, Senior Research Fellow, American Institute for Research
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Approaches to Healthy Aging: Evidence Bases
Dr. Richard M. Suzman, Associate Director, Behavioral and Social Sciences, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health
- 3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.** *Coffee Break*
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.** Advances in Nutrition Research: Challenges and Achievements
Dr. Juan Rivera Dommarco, Director, Nutrition and Health Research Center (CINyS), National Institute of Public Health (INSP)
- 4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.** The Role of PAHO in the Promotion of Health
Dr. Maria Teresa Cerqueira, Director, Division of Health Promotion and Protection, PAHO
- 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Commentator:
Dr. Edgar Kestler, Director, Epidemiological Research Center in Reproductive and Sexual Health (CIESAR), Guatemala, and ACHR Member
- 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** Discussion

6:00 p.m.	Reception in honor of the ACHR members and guests PAHO CAFETERIA – THIRD FLOOR
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Thursday, 13 June

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Third Session: Environmental Protection and Development Coordinator: Dr. Luiz Augusto Galvão , Chairman IACHR and Coordinator of the Environmental Quality Program, PAHO
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- 9:05 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Introduction: Development, Environment and Health (Overview)
Dr. Paulo Buss, President of the Osvaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Brazil
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Water and Sanitation
Prof. Barry Lloyd, Director, Center for Environmental Health and Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Surrey, U.K.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Air Quality
Dr. Mauricio Hernandez, Director, Population Health Research Center, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico
- 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. Chemical Safety
Dr. Ellen Silbergeld, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, and ACHR Member
- 11:20 a.m. – 12:00 m. The Role of PAHO/WHO
Dr. Mauricio Pardón, Director, Division of Health and Environment, PAHO
- 12:00 m. – 12:30 p.m. Discussion

2:00 to 5:30 p.m.	Fourth Session: Development of Health Systems and Services Coordinator: Dr. Enrique Ruelas Barajas , Under Secretary of Innovation and Quality, Health Secretariat, Mexico Health
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- 2:10 p.m.- 2:35 p.m. The Regional Challenge of Establishing Bridges between Research on Health Systems and Services and the Formulation of Policies and the Decision-making
Dr. Daniel Lopez Acuña, Director, Division of Health Systems and Services Development, PAHO
- 2:35 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Knowledge with Regard to Health Policies and Sectoral Reforms in the Americas
Prof. Ana Luiza Viana, Institute of Social Medicine, Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil
- 3:00 p.m.- 3:25 p.m. Knowledge with Regard to Human Resources Development
Dr. Juan Arroyo, Professor, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru
- 3:25 p.m.- 3:45 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 3:45 p.m.- 4:10 p.m. Knowledge on Health Needs, Demands, Utilization and Health-Care-Seeking Behavior
Prof. Elsie Le Franc, Professional Research Fellow, University of the West Indies, Bridgetown, Barbados
- 4:10 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Discussion

Friday, 14 June

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Fifth Session: Disease Prevention and Control Coordinator: <i>Dr. Jorge Allende</i> , Director, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Cellular and Molecular Biology Program, School of Medicine, University of Chile, and Chairman ACHR
9:05 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Historical Perspective on the Importance of Research in Disease Prevention and Control at PAHO <i>Dr. Gabriel Schmunis</i> , STC, Division of Disease Prevention and Control, PAHO
9:20 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.	Infectious Diseases Research: Accomplishments, Challenges and Opportunities <i>Dr. Anthony Fauci</i> , Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health
9:55 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Major Advances in Research Relating to Parasitic Diseases <i>Dr. Luiz Hildebrando Pereira da Silva</i> , Honorary Professor, Pasteur Institute, Scientific Director, Centro de Pesquisa em Medicina Tropical (CEPEM), Porto Velho, Brazil
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Discussion
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Progress in Genomics Research and Institutional Collaboration Mechanisms: <i>Dr. Andrew Simpson</i> , Ludwig Cancer Research Institute, São Paulo, Brazil
11:35 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Advances in Research on Noncommunicable Diseases <i>Dr. Anthony Miller</i> , Professor Emeritus, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto, Head, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, Heidelberg, Germany
12:10 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Discussion
12:30 to 1:00 p.m.	Panels - Closing Session
12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Remarks by the ACHR Chairman: <i>Dr. Jorge Allende</i>
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Remarks by PAHO Director: <i>Dr. George A. O. Alleyne</i>
	Joint Meeting PAHO ACHR and Global ACHR
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Discussion of WHO Report on Genomics <i>Dr. Jorge Gaviñondo</i> – Director, Division of Immunology and Diagnosis, Center of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Cuba
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Discussion of the 2004 WHO Report on the Evaluation of Health Research Systems <i>Dr. Tikki Pang</i> , Director, EIP/RPC, World Health Organization
3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Other Matters