



# Research for Health Newsletter

## January-March 2016

A periodic, informative bulletin reporting on the activities of research for health from the office of Knowledge, Bioethics and Research to inform countries, partners, and PAHO managers and staff on the advances in the execution of PAHO's [Policy on Research for Health](#). Please send questions and comments to [cuervolu@paho.org](mailto:cuervolu@paho.org). Twitter: @PAHOresearch  
Find this Newsletter in our [Research Portal](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### 4-Minute Tutorial on Registration of Research Proposals



This [four-minute tutorial clip](#) developed by the Research and Promotion team of the Knowledge Management, Bioethics, and Research (KBR) of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) shows how to register a clinical trial or an observational study (and where to register a systematic review), to meet international standards, fulfill requirements from publishers, comply with requirements from regulatory authorities, and follow good practices. Research registration increases the value of research and reduces its duplication. It enables people to learn about research projects, collaborate, and include it in the knowledge of topics. This clip focuses on how to register a clinical trial or observational studies through making it visible in WHO's International Clinical Trial Registry Platform. Systematic reviews should be registered in the [PROSPERO](#) database. This clip will soon be made available in Spanish and Portuguese.

## RESEARCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

### Call for applications Scholarships Mexico-2016 is now open



The Organization of American States (OAS), the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), with the support of PAHO/WHO, held a briefing on March 15, to announce the **Call for scholarships CONACYT - OAS - AMEXCID 2016**. The meeting was attended by OAS Assistant Secretary General and representatives of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS. The program offers scholarships to citizens of Member States of the OAS for graduate studies at universities accredited by CONACYT in Mexico. Find the call announcement at [OAS Scholarships CONACYT](#).

## PAHO-OAS Scholarship Program Updated numbers

**OAS-PAHO Scholarships**

22 Countries

180+ Students

Health Research

PAHO-OAS Scholarships are awarded to students in health-related fields from 22 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United States.

The scholarship program is funded by the OAS and PAHO. The OAS provides the majority of the funding, while PAHO provides the administrative support and the scholarship program is managed by the OAS. The program is open to students from all 22 countries and is available for students in health-related fields. The program is open to students from all 22 countries and is available for students in health-related fields.

By the end of 2015, a total of 183 scholarships from 22 countries has been awarded to students in health-related fields. The Scholarship Program for Brazilian Universities will soon announce a new call for applications, tentatively on May 16. More information is available on PAHO's [Research Portal](#).

The **PAHO-OAS Scholarship Program** has resulted from the agreement between both organizations together with local partners; in Brazil through the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB), and in Mexico through CONACYT – AMEXCID.

## In the Region

### PAHO-OAS-GCUB 4<sup>th</sup> University Internationalization Seminar

#### Washington DC - March 14, 2016

PAHO and OAS welcomed prestigious experts from around the world for the **4<sup>th</sup> University Internationalization Seminar “Universities as Agents of Change: Innovation and Socio-Economic Growth”** to discuss effective strategies in higher education, research, and innovation in the Americas. The seminar was organized in collaboration between [PAHO/WHO](#), [OAS](#), and the [Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities](#). Find more details of the collaboration and the event [here](#).



## EQUATOR and PAHO develop practical action plan for universities

At the [4th University Internationalization Seminar](#) held in Washington DC on 15 March 2016, Dr. Iveta Simera, Deputy Director of the UK EQUATOR Centre, gave the presentation: [Research papers that make a difference: how to increase research value, reputation, and impact](#). The [joint action plan](#) will help universities to fulfill their obligations to their scholars and to society, to enhance their reputation as supporters of high standards in health research reporting, and to increase the impact of research carried out by their scientists. Find more information [here](#).

## In the Countries

### Honduras

#### Research for Health Agenda



On December 11, 2015, the Ministry of Health of Honduras launched the Agenda for Health Research for the period of 2015 to 2018. The definition of research priorities is one of the axes of development of a national system of health research. It is expected that the Ministry of Health and its strategic partners, including the National Autonomous University of Honduras, will develop their research within the framework of the agenda so that the results will

help improve the health of the Honduran population. The Research Agenda includes 14 lines and 98 topics. The document can be reviewed at [HRWeb Honduras](#).

#### HIFA Representative from Honduras awarded prize



The [HIFA \(Healthcare Information for All\)](#) initiative brings together more than 15,000 health researchers, publishers, librarians, policymakers, clinicians, and information professionals on five international forums in three languages. Since 2012, HIFA held an activity that recognizes the Country Representative in the previous year for showing a strong commitment by promoting the initiative. In February 2016, the Steering Group announced **Jackeline Alger** as the winner. Dr. Alger is the HIFA Representative for Honduras and also an

experienced professor and researcher at the National Autonomous University of Honduras. Congratulations to Dr. Alger who also serves in PAHO's Advisory Committee on Health Research. Find more information [here](#).

## In the Secretariat

### Research Interest Group

#### Dr. Jon Andrus



On March 3, 2016, Jon Andrus was the special guest speaker for the Research Interest Group (RIG) to discuss his personal experience in the field of public health, including talking about his research related to vaccines, immunization, and accelerated control of vaccine-preventable diseases. His speech covered how his work overlaid the use of research promotion in policy-making and improving knowledge translation. Dr. Andrus tapped into three examples reflected in publications highlighting lessons learned and how barriers have been overcome to produce and use research. It included guiding the elimination of vector borne diseases and applying these to ongoing public health challenges such as Zika. This was also the first such event to offer American Sign Language (ASL). See more information by clicking on this [link](#).

### Meet the Newest Team Member

#### Christopher Khanoyan



[Christopher Khanoyan](#) has been doing an internship with PAHO/WHO since February this year. He is a public health professional who recently completed his Master of Public Health (MPH) at George Washington University (GWU) and has a great deal of experience in managing data and supporting principal investigators in a wide range of public health related projects. He also interned at the GWU Medical Center analyzing birth outcome epidemiology among the target population of pregnant mothers with ulcers. He also worked for the GWU School of Nursing to investigate studies and data collection in relation to Alzheimer's and cancer survivorship contributing to presentations and support for publications. He then joined PAHO's KBR team to intern by contributing to ongoing initiatives, supporting resource mobilization, and providing helpful strategic information to support further developments, including making some key resources accessible to populations with visual and aural impairments.

## Presentation on Pharmacogenetics



On February 19, 2016, [Dr. Adrian Llerena](#), Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Extremadura, Spain, gave a talk on “Pharmacogenetics and Populations” at PAHO Headquarters. Professor Llerena discussed the context of the research on pharmacogenetics -the term to describe the interactions between a drug and individuals' characteristics- carried out by the [Ibero-American network of Pharmacogenetics \(RIBEF\)](#), an interdisciplinary group of more than 200 investigators and health professionals from 16 countries. He also shared the main findings of RIBEF’s recent work, highlighting that ethnicity is one of the major factors involved in inter-individual variability to drug response and influence increasing suicide rates in indigenous populations.

## PARTNERSHIPS



### PAHO and EQUATOR Network provide tools in Portuguese

PAHO and the EQUATOR Network have launched their newest collaborative project to promote quality health research in the Americas: a [Portuguese interface of the EQUATOR website](#) that will translate key material on good research reporting and bring together existing Portuguese translations of reporting guidelines. This new option was announced via a [press release](#) last March and complements the already existing Spanish and English versions.

### PAHO and OAS partnering with University of Miami



PAHO and the OAS partnered with the University of Miami's [Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI Program\)](#) to offer a series of online courses on research practices and standards, designed to promote high-quality, ethical, and high-impact research. The courses are available free of charge to students holding scholarships sponsored by PAHO and the OAS in conjunction with the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities and CONACYT – AMEXCID in Mexico. Check the press release [here](#).

## PAHO and EQUATOR Network to renew their partnership agreement



Luis Gabriel Cuervo and Iveta Simera discussing the Plan of Action and MoU

PAHO and the EQUATOR Network are reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding to extend their partnership for 5 more years. The partnership focuses on promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research studies, providing resources, education, and training in relation to the reporting of health research and use of reporting guidelines. Since 2010, the network has supported researchers within the region by providing a handful of resources and tools aimed to strengthen knowledge translation activities, reporting standards and capacities for better public health and equity in the Americas. The

collaboration also led to important achievements such as the development of Spanish and, more recently, Portuguese interfaces.

## PAHO/WHO and HIFA: Working together to promote the availability and use of healthcare information



Since 2009, [HIFA \(Healthcare Information For All\)](#) has collaborated with WHO Headquarters, Geneva, to promote the availability and use of healthcare information for health professionals, citizens, researchers, and policymakers in low- and middle-income countries. For the past six months, HIFA has been working directly with colleagues at PAHO and specifically with Eliane Pereira dos Santos, who is now the lead moderator for HIFA-Portuguese. HIFA is a professional global health network with more than 15,000 members

committed to the progressive realization of the HIFA vision: a world where every person has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others. HIFA members represent more than 2,500 organizations across 175 countries worldwide, and interact on five global email discussion forums (HIFA Global Forums) in three languages (English, French, and Portuguese). HIFA has published its Annual Review for 2015, which you can download through [here](#). Building on the success of [HIFA-Portuguese](#), HIFA is now exploring the possibility of launching HIFA-Español later in 2016. To join HIFA, please go to <http://www.hifa2015.org/joinhifa> (English) and <http://www.hifa2015.org/hifa-pt/join-hifa-portuguese-hifa-pt/> (Portuguese).

## PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centres



On February 18, 2016, the [Center for World Health, College of Nursing & Health Innovation, Arizona State University](#) in Phoenix, USA has been designated as a [WHO Collaborating Centre to Advance the Policy on Research for Health](#) with activities such as consultations and development of policies, strategies, partnerships, and standards on emerging issues, knowledge translation and the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of research, among others. Currently, there are over 700 [WHO Collaborating Centres](#) in over 80 Member States working with WHO on areas such as nursing, occupational health, communicable diseases, nutrition, mental health, chronic diseases, and health technologies.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

### Conference on evidence-based healthcare

**Evidence Live 2016** brings together leading speakers in evidence-based medicine from all over the world, from the fields of research, clinical practice, and commissioning. *Evidence live* is the place for learning about the latest advances in evidence-based healthcare and finding out how they can be best applied in clinical practice. The conference will take place at University of Oxford in the United Kingdom from June 22 to 24, 2016, with pre- conference workshops on June 21. You can find out more or register [here](#).

### Puerto Rican Festival of Arts and Health

On May 2-4, 2016, the University of Puerto Rico will hold the Puerto Rican Conference on Public Health, V Festival of Arts and Health and Ibero-American Meeting of Public Health Schools, which will feature topics such as equity, social justice and human rights in health, social determinants of health, social participation, community and university in health, art and public health, and more. Find more information [here](#).

### 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas

Registration is still open for the [Epidemiology Congress of the Americas](#) to take place on June 21-24, 2016 in Miami, Florida. You can find more information in our previous [October–December 2015 Research newsletter](#).

## Cochrane Colloquium 2016



The Cochrane Colloquium 2016 will take place in Seoul, Korea from October 23 to 27, 2016. It will be the first time in nearly 25 years that it will be held in East Asia. Everyone who shares Cochrane's vision of a world in which health decision-making is informed by high quality, timely research evidence is invited to attend. If you are interested to register, please find more information by clicking on this [link](#).

## Global Social Economy Forum 2016

The City of Montreal and the Social Economy Construction Site co-organize the next Global Social Economy Forum - GSEF 2016, to be held from 7-9 September 2016 in Montreal Canada. The event will focus on the collaboration between local governments and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) organizations for the development of cities. The Forum will showcase existing projects from all continents that will represent the best practices of collaboration between public authorities and social economy organizations for the development of cities. To register, please click [here](#).

## The 22<sup>nd</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion



The 22<sup>nd</sup> International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) will take place in Curitiba, Brazil on May 22-26, 2016. This event is a unique worldwide association of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of the world and to reducing health inequalities. It is a key opportunity for the Latin American health promotion and public health communities to showcase their research and developments with stakeholders: researchers, practitioners, academics, institutions, and governments worldwide. Please find more information [here](#).

# PUBLICATIONS

## New open access journal



[Research Integrity and Peer Review](#) is an international, peer-reviewed and open access journal that encompasses all aspects of integrity in research publication, including peer review; study reporting, and research and publication ethics. Particular consideration is given to submissions that address current controversies and limitations in the field and offer potential solutions. *Research Integrity and Peer Review* is advised by an expert Editorial Board. The publication was launched at the [4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity](#) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2015.

## Qualitative study examining research participant experiences

“*Shedding light on research participation effects in behaviors change trials: a qualitative study examining research participant experiences*” is a research article that was recently published in January 2016 to discuss the sequence of events in a behavior change trial that involves interactions between research participants and the trial process. The aim of this study was to generate hypotheses about which aspects of the conduct of behavior change trials might matter most to participants, and have potential to alter subsequent behaviors and bias trial outcomes. See the full text on this [link](#).

## Former PAHO Intern published case study on iron fortification



[Alexandria Kristensen-Cabrera](#) is the lead author of the case study on [iron deficiency anemia: research on iron fortification for efficient, feasible solutions](#). Alexandria organized the case study through interviews with Dr. Juan Pablo Peña-Rosas who is currently Coordinator of Micronutrients Unit, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development at World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Peña Rosas along with Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo provided substantial additions and guidance to the case study. The case study exposes the potential for an efficient, viable conquer of iron deficiency and lack of iron supply, which can result in improved health and development. A series of case studies done by PAHO interns is available [here](#).

## Social Epidemiology Final Meeting Report

The Final meeting report of the *Social Epidemiology Workshop: Understanding reasons and concepts* is now available at <http://sewag.org/> . The workshop took place in Antigua Guatemala in 2015 and gathered top researchers, professors and scientific communities.

## Risk communication for public health online self-study course

Produced by PAHO, this [course](#) provides the basis upon which to design and implement a risk communication strategy that serves as a fundamental tool for facilitating the rapid response and control for any public health emergency.

## Indigenous Health in the Latin American Golden Decade

The Lancet published a comment on [Indigenous Health in the Latin American Golden Decade](#), including highlighting alarming inequalities in health outcomes for Indigenous people in Latin America. Along similar lines, the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* will publish a theme issue on **Addressing the health of vulnerable populations** and is calling for submission of papers by May 31 2016. Find more information [here](#).

## CALLS

### Applications for PhD Positions (MIROR)

[MIROR \(Methods in Research on Research\)](#), an innovative and ambitious joint doctoral training programme dedicated to clinical research, is recruiting 15 PhD students to be trained in Methods in Research on Research. Each recruited PhD student will be offered a 3-year Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship. “Research on Research” is an emerging new scientific discipline that aims to reduce waste in research and increase research value. **Application deadline is May 1, 2016.** Check the application process [here](#).

### UK EQUATOR Centre PUBLICATION SCHOOL 2016

A large number of published research articles is reported badly. They often provide insufficient, misleading, or ambiguous information, and so their usefulness is severely compromised. Back for the second year, this lively and practical course will build the skills and confidence to achieve success in planning, writing, publishing, and disseminating your research through traditional journals and other media channels. It will take place at St Catherine’s College, Oxford UK from **Monday 27 June to Friday 1 July 2016**. To register, please click [here](#).

## **Diploma in International Public Health for sanitary workers**

The [Spanish Foundation for International Health Cooperation Health and Social Policy \(FCSAI\)](#) is offering 25 scholarships to sanitary workers from several countries including Latin America, for postgraduate studies in International Public Health and Health Promotion at the National School of Public Health - Institute of Health Carlos III in Madrid, Spain. Deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Find the announcement by clicking [here](#).

## **Multimedia Contest on *Health Systems***

The [Fourth Global Symposium On Health Systems Research: Resilient And Responsive Health Systems For A Changing World](#) will take place in Vancouver on 14-18 November 2016. This event is calling for a Multimedia contest in topics relevant to the symposium. Deadline submission is April 28<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) for details.

*For the compilation of material for this newsletter PAHO technical areas, PAHO country offices, the ACHR as well as strategic partners for the advancement of the Policy on Research for Health were invited to send contributions. It was compiled by the Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics, and Research (KBR); Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo, Maria C. Medina, Christopher Khanoyan, and Louisa Stuwe.*

*Find this Newsletter in our [Research Portal](#)*