



## Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras, former manager of Chile's National Immunization Program, Dies

*Octavia Silva, PAHO*

Earlier this month, Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras passed away from cancer, a short time after he had been chosen as the recipient for 2017's PAHO Immunization Award, which was given to him at the Pan American Health Organization's XXIV Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-preventable Diseases (TAG) in Panama City, Panama. Due to his deteriorating health, Dr. Muñoz could not physically receive the award at the meeting, but was able to receive it in Chile, accompanied by the Minister of Health, Dr. Carmen Castillo; Sub-secretary of public health, Jaime Burrows and PAHO/WHO Representative in Chile, Paloma Cuchi.

As part of acknowledging the award, Sub-secretary Burrows stated that Dr. Muñoz was deserving of the recognition "for being a complete professional, technically and as a human, as well as for being devoted to the development of public health in the country."

Dr. Muñoz Porras, a medical surgeon, had worked as manager of Chile's National Immunization Program in the Ministry of Health, professor at the Universidad de la Frontera, adjunct professor at the Universidad de Chile and the Universidad de la Frontera, director of Araucania Health Services, Sub-secretary of Health in Chile, aggregate for the United Nations on health in the mission for Chile, and as a consultant for PAHO/WHO, GTZ, IDB, USAID and the World Bank Group in matters of public health, among many others.

Sub-secretary Burrows also stated that "support from Dr. Muñoz was essential, from the technical and communicational point-of-view, to the incorporation of the human papilloma virus vaccine [into Chile's national immunization program]. Dr. Muñoz highlighted the importance of this new vaccine that was being incorporated into the program."



Dr. Fernando Muñoz Porras



# PAHO Immunization GIN Articles

(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)



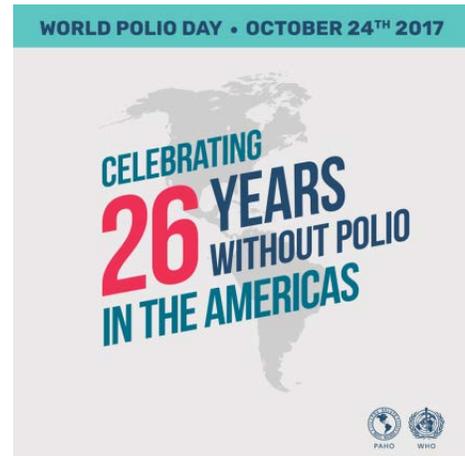
## World Polio Day Celebration in the Americas

Ana Elena Chevez, Eduardo Rivero, Elizabeth Thrush

October 24<sup>th</sup> was World Polio Day and PAHO used this day as an opportunity to highlight the world's progress towards eradication, to call on governments to renew their commitment to the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan, and invite families to maintain collective efforts to eradicate the wild virus and the vaccine-derived poliovirus.

The recent resolution CSP29.R16 of the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference included a mandate for PAHO/WHO to continue to support Member States in the use of the fractional dose of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) and, through the Revolving Fund, ensure the availability of the vaccine in the countries. The Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit and the Revolving Fund are actively involved in preparing the implementation of the fractional doses of IPV; currently eight Central American, South American and Caribbean countries are preparing for the change to fractional doses of IPV, implying a different dose of the vaccine and a different route of administration.

Global polio eradication is within our reach, the dream of thousands of workers and health workers, who for decades contributed with dedication to this achievement, is about to be realized. Together, as a global effort, we can do it!



PAHO/WHO developed the following infographics to be shared widely on social media in celebration of World Polio Day 2017. Read more here: [bit.ly/WPD-2017](http://bit.ly/WPD-2017)



# PAHO Immunization GIN Articles



(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

## National training on the change to fractional doses of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (fIPV) in Ecuador

PAHO-ECUADOR

<b>Location</b>	Quito, Ecuador
<b>Dates</b>	19-20 October 2017
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EPI coordinators from each of the nine health zones in Ecuador</li><li>• National Health Authorities and representatives from the national EPI program</li><li>• Dr. Gina Tambini, PAHO-Ecuador Representative</li><li>• Representatives from PAHO-Headquarters</li></ul>
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this meeting was to train the departmental immunization coordinators from each zone on the background, rationale and administration technique for fractional doses of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (fIPV) in the routine immunization program.



In total, there were 58 people participating in this meeting. An update on global polio eradication progress was given, as well as background on the global and regional supply shortage of IPV, scientific evidence on the immunogenicity of fIPV, open vial policy regulations and communication strategies.

There was a hands-on workshop where participants practiced the administration technique and administrative procedures of fIPV vaccination. There was plenty of time for questions and discussion. This was a crucial aspect of the training, as it was of utmost importance that each person in attendance understood every aspect of the training, so that they can replicate the training in their respective zones. Between now and the end of the year, Ecuador will do a cascade-style training on fIPV down to the service level. Ecuador plans to implement the new schedule as of January 2018.



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## 2018 Polio Vaccination Schedule in Ecuador

2 months	4 months	6 months	18 months
fIPV	fIPV	bOPV	bOPV

