



**Pan American
Health
Organization**

Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

**PAHO – Red Cochrane Iberoamericana Award
Health Agenda for the Americas 2008 — 2017
Theme “Strengthening the Health Systems in the Americas”**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) supports and promotes development and the use of research in order to improve life and the well-being of the populations of the Americas, as is reflected in the PAHO Policy of Research for Health (www.paho.org/researchportal). PAHO/WHO and the Cochrane Collaboration share the values and objectives of the policy, and want to help to advance the ‘Health Agenda for the Americas’ 2008-2017.

PAHO/WHO wishes to inspire the authors of the Cochrane Collaboration so that they address key research questions for public health and health systems, through the development of relevant systematic and methodologically robust reviews that contribute useful recommendations in priority topics for the governments of the Americas.

Thanks to a kind contribution of the “Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo” (AECID), PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the Red Cochrane Iberoamericana, created this award to: recognize systematic reviews and protocols that promote the [Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017](#) agreed by the governments of the Americas in 2007; promote the development of new reviews; and inspire young researchers to contribute systematic reviews that guide research that contribute to informed decisions for health.

Bases of the Contest

The theme of this year is **Strengthening the Health Systems in the Americas**; its objective is to promote research that contributes to robust health systems through Cochrane Reviews. An award will be given to one systematic review and one protocol that responds to current research questions relevant to the health systems in the Americas. The prize will be awarded on 22 October 2011 during the [XIX Cochrane Colloquium](#) taking place in Madrid, Spain 19-22 October.

A panel of credited investigators will preselect the protocols and reviews among works already published in *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* in *The Cochrane Library* or the *Library Cochrane Plus* between January 2009 and June 20 of 2011. Systematic reviews and protocols not published in these libraries will also be taken into account; those should be sent to the Pan American Health Organization, RP@paho.org no later than 20 June 2011 with a subject line “Cochrane 2011 Award.”

Criteria for initial selection:

- Title perceived as relevant for Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 and to the strengthening national health systems in Latin America or the Caribbean.
- National or foreign author(s) with connection and residence in an institution of Latin America or the Caribbean. On equal terms preference will be given to author(s) national of the Americas.
- High methodological quality; the structured abstract suggests concrete and applicable recommendations.
- The approach suggests applicability in health systems of the Americas and is relevant to a mandate or current initiative of PAHO/WHO.

Selection criteria:

- Relevant for the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017
- Takes into account aspects of equity.
- Perception by the selection panel, as useful for the strengthening of the national health systems
- Author(s) with connection to an institution of the Americas and resident in a country of Latin America or Caribbean. On equal terms preference will be given to author(s) national of the Americas.
- High methodological quality

The prize

The award to the best review recognizes the author(s) of a systematic review judged by its importance, usefulness, and high methodological quality, which contributes to strengthen health systems in the Americas. The award consists in recognition of the team during the event and covering the participation in the Colloquium (air tickets in economy class, lodging, and registration to the event) of an author designated by the team and agreed with the organizers. We encourage the team to give the opportunity of participation to a young and/or still non-established investigator. All the authors of the winning review and the finalists will be recognized during the Colloquium.

The award to the best protocol rewards the author(s) of a systematic review protocol judged by its high methodological quality and its importance in order to strengthen health systems in the Americas. The prize consists in the team's recognition during the Colloquium, a certificate for each author, and mention of the team in the press release.

Deadline to submit works: 20 June 2011. Send to RP@paho.org with subject line Cochrane 2011 Award.

***Note:** PAHO/WHO employees, its family members in first degree who are part of a review team will be mentioned in the recognition but are not eligible in order to receive the participation award. The members of the jury will declare their conflicts of interest upon being designated and upon meeting for deliberations.*

[Link to 2010 winners](#)