

**52nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) and
43rd Session of the PAHO/AMRO ACHR**

COVER LETTER FOR THE AGENDA

Dear participants:

To commemorate the first 50 years of the Advisory Committees on Health Research, we are delighted to host a joint session of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO; 52nd session) and the ACHR of the Pan American Health Organization, hereafter referred to as CAIS, its Spanish acronym (PAHO/AMRO; 43rd session). This meeting will be the first for these Committees following the presentation of PAHO/AMRO's Research for Health Policy to the Governing Bodies – the first regional policy aligned with the Research Strategy the WHO's 124th Executive Board submitted to the 63rd World Health Assembly. Hence, this meeting constitutes an excellent opportunity to discuss issues relevant to the concordance between these documents, and the strategies and action plans needed to progress from policy to specific outputs. The meeting will also offer an opportunity to examine relationships and interactions between global, regional and national developments.

The structure of this meeting is action oriented and geared towards obtaining guidance for the implementation of the proposed WHO Strategy on Research for Health (hereafter 'the Research Strategy), and at the Regional level, of PAHO's Research for Health Policy (Hereafter "PAHO Research Policy). The meeting will also seek even closer harmonized collaboration between the regions and headquarters.

Work sessions have been organized following the WHO Research Strategy Goals. Each session consists of a short presentation followed by ample time for discussion. The presentations are the result of close collaboration between staff at HQ and regional offices, especially AMRO/PAHO. A list of topics organized according to the Strategy and Policy goals have been identified for each session. Business owners have provided Summary of Activity reports in tabular form and these have been grouped according to the WHO Research Strategy goals and the Agenda will highlight the reports relevant to each section. The reports have been analyzed and the Key Issues presented in two or three slides by the discussion leader who will have previously coordinated with the Chairs. The presentation in each session will last 10-15 minutes and discussions will last 60-90 minutes. Future steps will be discussed in a summing up session. Sessions will be moderated by the ACHR chairs but will also have a designated discussion leader to present the summaries and promote the discussion of key issues. A rapporteur will summarize the discussion and preliminary recommendations for the group.

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ANNEX I

Complementary and synergistic goals

<i>Goals, WHO's Strategy on Research for Health</i>	<i>Goals, PAHO's Policy on Research for Health</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities: reinforcing research that addresses priorities (b) • Capacity: strengthening national health research systems (a, c) • Standards: promotes good practices and sets norms and standards (d, e) • Knowledge Translation: links policy, practice and products of research (f) • Organization: strengthen research culture and governance in the organization (b) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the generation of relevant, ethical, and high quality research (Capacity) • Strengthen research governance and promote the definition of research agendas (Capacity, Priorities, Organization) • Improve competencies and support for human resources involved in research (Capacity) • Seek efficiencies, enhanced impact and ownership of research through strategic alliances (Capacity, Standards) • Foster best practices and enhanced standards (Capacity, Standards) • Promote dissemination of utilization of findings (Capacity, Knowledge Translation)

Questions for ACHR/CAIS consideration:

- What opportunities are we (WHO/PAHO) missing? Who are the key strategic partners to begin working with, keeping focus.
- What are the additional barriers to implementing this goal at the global/regional/country level?
- How can we overcome these barriers?
- How will we provide for periodic assessment, course correction and new ideas?
- How can WHO and/or PAHO be more helpful?

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Objectives:

- Obtain ACHR/CAIS recommendations for a strategic approach to implement WHO's Research Strategy and PAHO's Research Policy.
- Give the ACHR/CAIS an update on: existing research-related initiatives and on technical cooperation projects and initiatives; developments between global and regional ACHRs and related offices; and harmonization, coordination, and collaboration efforts.
- Commemorate the first 50 years of the ACHR system taking stock of contributions made at the Committees in headquarters and the regional offices.

Expected results:

- Overall expectation: recommendations from WHO's ACHR for the Director General and recommendations from the PAHO/AMRO Regional ACHR discussed and accepted by the Director.
- Specifically: recommendations for the development of regional strategies and action plans relevant to the goals of WHO's Research Strategy (priorities, capacity, standards, knowledge translation, organization) and the implementation of PAHO's concordant Research Policy. Evidence of stronger collaboration and coordination among regions and between each region and WHO-HQ, such as demonstrable progress on existing joint initiatives and recommendations for new ones.
- Recommendation for alignment of Global and Regional ACHR meetings with WHO's Strategy goals.
- Improved understanding of research development in Panama and establishment of a dialogue with the local health and research authorities about the challenges, opportunities and implications of the implementation of research for health policies in the country.