



## RESEARCH FOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2013

A periodic, informative bulletin reporting on the activities of research for health. Its purpose is 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 [villanue@paho.org](mailto:villanue@paho.org).

### Hot Spot

#### 52<sup>ND</sup> Directing Council, 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the EC, September 30-October 4, Washington DC



During the [52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Directing Council](#) the Ministers of Health of the Region discussed and approved the new PAHO Strategic Plan and discussed other documents, resolutions and health issues in the Region. The integration of PAHO's Policy on Research for Health (CD49.R10) is increasingly palpable in PAHO's work. Research for Health participated in drafting the [resolution](#) recognizing chronic kidney disease as a serious health problem in the Americas. This Resolution calls for more research about the disease, including its causes and health effects so as to increase awareness of the problem worldwide. Similarly, resolution [CD52.R14](#) focused on Evidence-based policy-making for national immunization programs.

The *Art for Research project*, a collection of images that visually demonstrate how research for health can drive social and economic development, and equity in health. The project exhibitions were all displayed during the Directing Council. Despite research being a wise investment with huge returns, it is not always evident to the common person, and this exhibit is an effort to distill the message. The highlight of this project was the premier of a new exhibition: the live presentation by young artist and medical student Shelly Xie, who sand painted the stories of Chagas and Hookworm infections. See Shelly's sand painting presentation and Theo Chalmers and Jane Dempster illustrations [here](#) or find the exhibit on Facebook [here](#).

#### 21<sup>st</sup>. Cochrane Colloquium, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cochrane. September 15-18, Quebec, Canada

The 21st Cochrane Colloquium took place in Quebec City, Canada. An event hosted by Cochrane Canada and Laval University it gathered about 1300 professionals from as many as 100 countries interested in improving and utilizing health



research. Cochrane's many achievements and its future challenges were the theme in some sessions and the final plenary. As in previous years PAHO had an active role in the Colloquium beginning with Dr. LA Galvao who as PAHO acting AD was invited to be a speaker in the III Plenary after which Eleana C Villanueva delivered the [PAHO-Cochrane Award 2013](#). See more on the prize [here](#).

PAHO staff also led the following sessions:

[Boosting the production of scientific evidence for low and middle income countries](#)

[Evidence to policy in graduate programs: scaling up EVIPNet. Research Dissemination for Impact.](#)

Poster [Online Capacity Building in Translating Research into Practice for Latin American researchers.](#)

### Country News



#### **Argentina: Submissions Wanted**

The Argentinian National Commission "Salud Investiga" issued a call for submissions for up to 260 grants for clinical and public health research projects. More information can be found at <http://www.saludinvestiga.org.ar/>.



#### **Dominican Republic (DOR): Meetings with Research, Luis Gabriel Cuervo and Eleana C Villanueva, Washington DC.**

**DOR's Delegation to DC, October 2013.** In a meeting with the DOR's delegation technical cooperation in the research front was discussed. The expressed interest covered several areas, from reviewing the DOR policy on research for health and receiving guidance for its launching and implementation to training human resources on research management, support to advance prioritization projects, to joining the EVIPNet and receiving guidance to embed key PAHO sites in the MoH site, i.e. HRWeb and EQUATOR.

**Dra. Emilia Guzmán, Director of Research for Health, MOH, 12 September 2013.** During her visit several areas of potential collaboration were discussed and these were followed in a meeting with the DOR delegation during the Directing Council (see above)

## Research policy implementation

### **EVIPNet Américas**



#### **EVIPNet Brazil Launches Nuclei of Evidences and Stations of the Virtual Health Library**

EVIPNet Brazil, in partnership with PAHO/Bireme, is supporting the creation of the Nuclei of Evidences and Stations of the Virtual Health Library (*Núcleos de Evidências e Estações da Biblioteca Virtual de Saúde – NEv/EBVS*) aiming to build local capacities for the incorporation of scientific knowledge to the management of health systems and services. Four NEv's have already been implemented in different Brazilian municipalities: Piripiri (PI), Sobral (CE), Recife (PE) and Brasília (DF). See more [here](#).

#### **Workshop offered in São Paulo. 27 - 30 August.**

This workshop focused on empirical evidence-based research, and the importance of the use of scientific knowledge strategies in policy. The main focus was to acquire a bottom-up approach for research.

#### **School of Public Health Minas Gerais receives visit from the Ministry of Health, 23 August 2013.**

The Coordinator of EVIPNet Brazil/Ministry of Health/WHO, Nathan Souza, visited officials in the SPH, Advisor Helian Nunes and vice-director, Augusto Nunes Filho for a routine check and talk about the contribution of the school to evidence-informed policies. See more [here](#).

#### **Recife hosts policy dialog in Brazil, 19 July 2013**

The first [policy dialog](#) took place in Recife and addressed perinatal mortality. The dialog gathered 33 health professionals who debated exhaustively the main causes of newborn deaths and how maternal mortality in the first hours after birth can be reduced

**Evelina Chapman coordinates EVIPNet Américas**

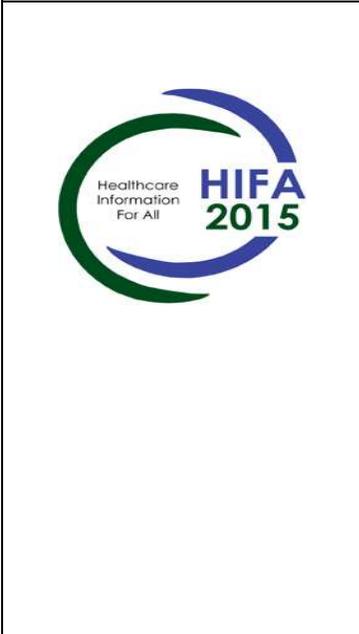
## Research and Health Technology Assessment

#### **IV Gathering of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Network**

Ludovic Reveiz participated in the IV meeting of the HTA network that discussed aspects of regulation, policy decision-making tools, and the rational use of the technologies as well as proposals to strengthen HTAs in the Americas. In addition

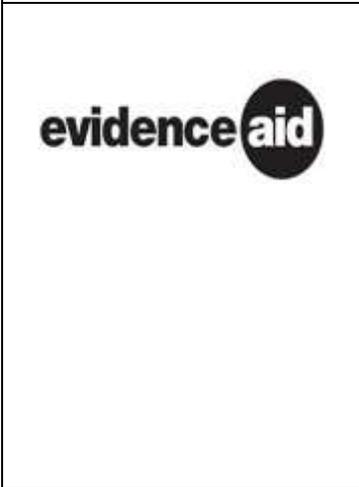
Reveiz made two presentations, one covered two studies on the topic “Judicialización”. One study was about the characteristics of the litigations based on the right to health in Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica and the other were the results of a survey to 165 decision-makers of the health system with regard to strategies to address these litigations. The second presentation, *Development of guidelines in PAHO/WHO in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean*, explained the process of preparation of evidence-based guidelines in accordance with the standards of WHO, emphasizing the progress and challenges in the Region for the adoption, adaptation, preparation, implementation and evaluation of technical guides

**Partnerships**



**HIFA 2015 at the Cochrane Colloquium**

HIFA’s Neil Pakenham-Walsh coordinator of Healthcare Information for All ([HIFA 2015](#)) presented the HIFA model of dissemination which supports that in order for end-users to successfully put the information into use, producers must first make them available through references and other learning materials. Pakenham-Walsh explained in detail each step of the model and talked about how researchers can mainstream systematic reviews for increased impact. HIFA model was the opening presentation of the [Dissemination for Impact](#) session moderated by Eleana C Villanueva during the Cochrane Colloquium. HIFA 2015 is characterized by its very active and lively discussions that are later collated by topic discussion by its coordinator. If you would like to join HIFA write to [HIF-net-admin@dgroups.org](mailto:HIF-net-admin@dgroups.org).



**Evidence Aid receives a Coveted Award**

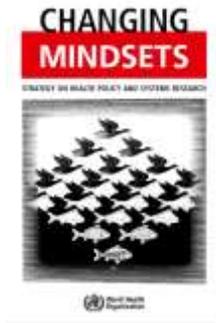
[Evidence Aid](#) researches empirical data and review processes to provide current information on proper methods of intervention during natural disasters. Evidence Aid was recently awarded the “Unorthodox Prize 2013.” prize that is given to an organization deserving funding because of the transformative nature of impacting the world’s most disadvantaged people. The committee described Evidence Aid as having “an excellent chance of achieving its ambitions [especially since Mitigating the lasting impacts of disasters, which are disproportionately felt by the poor, is indeed a fertile area for such opportunities].” More information can be found about the award [here](#).

	<p><b>EQUATOR Network Launches New Website</b></p> <p>The EQUATOR (Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of Health Research) network has launched a newly updated website. News information about current progression of clinical trials, an extensive library database for health research, and videos and research reporting guides are among many of the features this updated site offers. To learn more about the EQUATOR network, please click <a href="#">here</a>. Under the EQUATOR –PAHO collaboration the Spanish site will be upgraded accordingly to bring the new functionalities of the English site.</p> <p>On a related note, PAHO country office librarians, under the PAHO HQ library, joined a virtual session where the initiative “Improving research reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean” was presented. The session was moderated by Shona Kirtley and supported by Iveta Simera and Eleana C Villanueva. Shona explained why librarians are key in this project, alerted them of the resources available to them and invited them to join the initiative. See more here: <a href="http://www.equator-network.org/toolkits/librarians/">http://www.equator-network.org/toolkits/librarians/</a></p>
	<p><b>Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre, Online Course on Systematic Reviews.</b></p> <p>Iberoamerican Cochrane is making its course entitled “Introduction to Systematic Reviews” available online to professionals in the Americas interested in learning more about systematic reviews. To register go to <a href="http://www.cochrane.es/moodle/login/index.php">http://www.cochrane.es/moodle/login/index.php</a>.</p>
	<p><b>NEWS ON PARTNERS</b></p> <p>Francisco Becerra previously COHRED’s Head of Projects &amp; Programmes for Latin America and who frequently attended the Meetings of the PAHO Advisory Committee on Health Research for being the liaison person with PAHO, was appointed PAHO’s Assistant Director as of 1 October 1st, 2013.</p> 



Roberta Scherer, Associate Director of the US Cochrane Center, and the US Satellite of the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group, and Gerald D Keusch, Co-Chair COHRED, attended the Directing Council as representatives of their institutions respective institutions, COHRED and Cochrane. As NGOs in special relations with WHO, both have a seat at the PAHO Governing Bodies as observers.

### New Publications



#### **WHO Strategy for Health Policy and Systems Research**

This *Strategy* launched in 2012 represents a major breakthrough in health policy and systems research (HPSR) by undertaking three broad aims: to unify the worlds of research and decision making; to provide insight into the dynamic processes of generating evidence; and to call attention towards HPSR and ultimately move the field ahead.

See more information [here](#) or download the publication from [here](#).



#### **Violence Prevention: the Evidence**

This book is a series of briefings that summarize the main findings of 7 interventions to prevent interpersonal and self-directed violence: increasing safe, stable and nurturing relationships between children, their parents and/or caregivers; developing life skills in children and adolescents; reducing use of alcohol; reducing access to guns, knives and pesticides; promoting gender equality to prevent violence against women; changing cultural norms that support violence; and reducing violence through victim identification support for victims. Find evidence on interventions to prevent violence [here](#) and see the full series [here](#).

### Announcements



#### **PAHO/TDR Call for Small Grants Proposals, Deadline for applications 31 January 2014**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Special Programme for Research and Control in Tropical diseases (TDR) invite health professionals and investigators from institutions in

	<p>the PAHO Region to submit research proposals addressing operational issues related to health care access for pregnant women and children, and strategies to integrate diagnostic and treatment services for Chagas disease, hepatitis, syphilis and HIV. The principal investigators of selected proposals will be invited to a project development workshop to further develop their proposals and plans. See more on TDR <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<p><b><a href="#">ACHR NEWS</a></b></p> <p>ACHR Member Dr. Lisa Bero was unanimously elected Co-Chair of The Cochrane Collaboration during the Colloquium in Quebec. Lisa has been a vocal contributor to ACHR and has also been a leading coordinator of the partnership between the World Health Organization and the Cochrane Collaboration as an NGO in special relations with WHO.</p>