



**Research for Health Newsletter- April 2012**

A periodic, informative bulletin reporting on the activities of research for health. The purpose of this publication 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).

**NEWS**



[The World Forum 2012 of health research](#) is taking place from the 23-27 of April in Cape Town, South Africa. PAHO is participating in this high level event on research for health and policies. Dr. Roses, Director of PAHO, issued this [message of the support](#) and Luis Gabriel Cuervo will represent PAHO. In collaboration with WHO's Innovation, Information, Evidence, and Research cluster and COHRED, PAHO is [presenting the exhibition Art for Research](#) that illustrates the value of research for society through photographs and short histories.



[Director of TDR visits PAHO](#). Dr. John Reeder, the new Director TDR, visited PAHO Headquarters on March 15<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by Drs. Meinrad Studer and Fabio Zicker, both members of Reeder's team. In his short visit Reeder talked with the Director of PAHO and participated in a technical meeting with professionals from the human resources, malaria, medicines and health technologies, neglected diseases, research for health, and tuberculosis teams. Dr. Reeder indicated that during his management TDR will focus on projects where it has a comparative advantage and thus where its impact can be greater. It was clear both institutions wish to strengthen the already close collaboration that has existed for several years. Reeder's was a very timely visit in order to strengthen existing ties with PAHO.



[Second Symposium on Health Systems Research](#): Inclusion and innovation toward universal coverage in health. The deadline to present individual abstracts closes on May 1, 2012. At the second symposium stakeholders will examine the status of health systems research since Montreux (2010) and will share new evidence, identify new opportunities and gaps, build understanding across disciplinary boundaries and discuss the way forward to support HSR and the use of evidence in decision-making in low- and middle-income countries.



[Thoughts on a new scientific society](#): Does the world need a new scientific society? Read this provocative [Editorial](#) published in *Implementation Science* where the authors discuss the pros and cons of creating a new society whose focus is research for improving health care—taking an inclusive approach to what constitutes healthcare. Give us your opinion in the subject [here](#).

**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

**EVIPNET:**  
[The presentation "Water and Sanitation in the Latin America and the Caribbean"](#) was offered on March 15<sup>th</sup> as part of the series of virtual seminars *Toward Rio+20: Sustainable Development and the Environment*. Learn more [here](#). Dr. Evelina Chapman was responsible for the presentation in which she also presented "The deliberative dialogue as an instrument to incorporate public policies informed by evidence into water and sanitation in the national context."





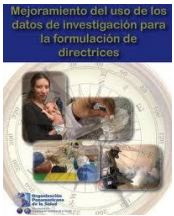
**COLOMBIA 1-3 February 2012.** In response to a request of the Ministry of Health a mission traveled to Colombia to participate in the officialization of the EVIPNet-Colombia initiative. During this mission an introductory workshop on the preparation of policy briefs for policy-making was offered to a broad range of stakeholders. Previous to the workshop another session was offered to a smaller group of researchers and policy makers to explain the process to elaborate “policy briefs” on the prevention of infant obesity. The workshop was led by the Ministry of Health with Evelina Chapman helping in the organization and coordination of the events. The facilitators of the workshop were Luis Gabriel Cuervo, Marcelo Dieguez, and Evelina Chapman. See more [here](#).



**El Paso.** From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, a workshop on “Addressing and preventing violence and injuries through informed public policies” was held in Ciudad Juárez. Decision-makers and academics from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) participated in the workshop in which they received training on the preparation of policy briefs (compendium/summary of policies). The thematic facilitators of the workshop were from CONAPRA, ICESI, and PAHO and the methodological facilitators came from the technical support group of EVIPNet-America. See more [here](#).



**Paraguay. Deliberative Dialogue on Chronic Diseases:** The EVIPNet team organized and completed its second deliberative dialogue that was coordinated by the Minister, Dr. Esperanza Martínez. Managers and decision makers in the areas of primary health care and chronic diseases, as well as regional health directors and investigators were convened. The base document used to deliberate was the “policy brief” (summary/compendium of policies) “*The role of Primary Health Care in the integrated approach for the management of Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases*” and the technical personnel of the ministry presented the options of policy up for deliberation. From PAHO, Dr. Enrique Vázquez participated on behalf of the PAHO Representative and Dr. Antonieta Rojas de Arias, research focal point and EVIPnet Américas counterpart, providing technical support for the realization of the Dialogue. You can listen to the Minister in this [video](#) (in Spanish only).



#### **GUIDELINES FOR GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT:**

**Guatemala, March 3-4, 2012.** With the support of PAHO’s Guatemala office, a meeting on the development of guidelines using the GRADE methodology was held—the workshop was attended by participants from Guatemala and Ecuador. Dr. Ludovic Reveiz (PAHO-WDC) and Ana Elena Chevez supported the workshop through their organization and coordination of the event. Hernando Gaitan and Carlos Grillo, from the network of collaborating centers of the Iberoamerican Cochrane Network, were the facilitators of the event.

**Geneva 25-29 February:** Ludovic Reveiz traveled to Geneva in order to participate in the meeting of experts on patient security in primary care. The primary objectives of the meeting were to evaluate and prioritize gaps in the knowledge base related to patient security in primary care and to plan future actions.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Jamaica March 12-14, 2012. Research Day 2012, UWI Jamaica

The Clinical Epidemiology Unit of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CEU), member of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLIN), sponsored the workshop titled “Strengthening of Health Systems of the Caribbean: Systematic revisions and Assessment of Health Technologies.” The objectives of the workshop were: 1) to introduce researchers and Caribbean normative entities to systematic reviews as a means of including evidence-based decision-making to the health systems of the Sub Region; 2) to establish a methodology for the assessment of health technologies; and 3) to improve the efficacy and the effectiveness of the health care services in the Caribbean. The workshop was a collaboration with the Canadian Society for the International Health, the University of Ottawa, and the Cochrane Center of the United States with the partial financial support of PAHO and Health Canada. The Representative of PAHO, Ms. Margareta Sköld, participated in the inaugural ceremony to show PAHO’s support for the activity.



**Research Interest Group (RIG).** The Research Interest Group (RIG) resumed its sessions with a presentation on social protection led by Dr. Julio Siede, consultant on the issue for the Project Public Policies and Health Research Group. Dr. Siede’s presentation can be consulted [here](#). The RIG is an activity opened to all interested in research. It is organized and coordinated by the interns of the research team who contribute through the organization, convocation, and agenda of the sessions. Suggestions for topics to address in future RIGs are welcome. Send them to [villanue@paho.org](mailto:villanue@paho.org).



**Cayetano Heredia and PAHO** agreed to the auspices (Cayetano) of Peruvian interns on research topics in PAHO Headquarters. This initiative resulted in a visit from the Cayetano Heredia Rector, Dr. Fabiola León Velarde, in which among other areas of collaboration there were discussions about the possibility of Cayetano Heredia sponsoring Peruvian students and professors so that they can carry out internships in PAHO Headquarters. The convocation has been launched in Cayetano’s website and can be seen [here](#).



**Erasmus Summer 2012 Program.** Training for research on drugs and health sciences. This program focuses on the principles and the key methods of quantitative medical research. Open to all students and health professionals, it provides essential updates in a variety of applied medical disciplines and health care topics. [See more](#).

Internship in research communications with an emphasis on publication and writing for the Web and the media. This internship is ideal for students who have knowledge of the web, are interested in communications, and who speak Spanish as well as English. [See more](#).

## RESOURCES



**Cochrane Library.** A consistent and exceptional resource available to available to all people interested in evidence-based health care. It is made up of seven databases, among these are a collection of systematic reviews, another for the summaries of systematic reviews, and a third for clinical trials. Consult the Cochrane Library [here](#).



**The Equator Network** has a goal of promoting research reporting guidelines, for example CONSORT and PRISMA. Equator has organized a scientific [symposium](#) in Freiburg, Germany in October 2012. On a related subject the Equator Network is requesting feedback on its website where research reporting guidelines are published. Please help them by taking this short [survey](#).

## RECOGNITION OF THE RESEARCH TEAM

PAHO, through its research team, has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Board of the European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean. The first meeting of the Board was held in Rio de Janeiro where the RIMAIS Network and Network CYTED also met. These meetings oriented around harmonizing the policies of research of the region with those of the European Union, promoting cooperation in research between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, and developing a road map for the normative entities in order to promote the policies on research for health, strengthen the 'governance' of research, and promote the knowledge translation. Program 7 of Work in the European Union sponsored these high-level meetings and the meetings were carried out in Brazil from March 19-23.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

1) Treatments for iron-deficiency anemia in pregnancy. Iron-deficiency anemia can have very serious consequences for mothers and babies but there is controversy concerning whether the treatment of mild or moderate anemia provides more benefit than harm. This study evaluates the effects of different treatments on anemia in the pregnancy. Available in [The Cochrane Library](#), 2011, Issue 10

2) [Restriction of antibiotic in salts pharmacies in Bogotá, Colombia: a descriptive study](#). The article describes the execution of a regulation that prohibits the sales of antibiotics without a medical prescription in the pharmacies of Bogotá, Colombia. [Rev Pneumol Clin in Med of the Tavern](#).

3) Trilogy of articles as guidance for evidence informed about health systems, published in PLoS. Three articles set out how research evidence should be translated into guidance to inform policies on health systems, and improve the delivery of effective clinical and public health interventions.

The Lavis article explores the challenge of linking guidance development and policy development at global and national levels and examines the range of factors that can influence policy development Read more [here](#).

The Bosch-Capblanch article examines how guidelines are formulated in middle and low income countries and the challenges to developing such guidance. Read more [here](#).

The Lewin article explores the challenges of evaluating how evidence can be applied with confidence in health system interventions. Read more [here](#).

4) Lemmens T, Telfer C. Access to Information and the Right to Health: The Human Rights Case for Clinical Trials Transparency. *Am J of Law and Medicine*, Vol. 38, pp. 63-112, 2012. Read more [here](#).