

# Expert Consultation on Colorectal Cancer Screening in Latin America and the Caribbean

---

March 16-17, 2016

Pan American Health Organization  
525 23<sup>rd</sup> St NW, Washington, DC, USA

**ROOM B**

**AGENDA**

## **Background:**

In the Americas, colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer, responsible for approximately 246,000 new cases and 112,000 deaths each year. If no action is taken, it is predicted that colorectal cancer incidence will increase by 60% by 2030 to 396,000 new cases. Canada, Uruguay, and Barbados are the countries with the highest colorectal cancer incidence rates in this region, while the countries in Central America have the lowest rates.

Colorectal cancer is particularly suitable for screening and early detection, as it predominantly develops from non-malignant precursor lesions which can be detected and treated effectively. Guidelines for colorectal cancer screening have been developed by numerous national professional groups that include beginning screening in an average risk population at age 50 years until age 75 years. The recommended modalities for screening vary, and include high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing, fecal immunochemical test, flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. Regardless of the test, an organized screening program with established processes and procedures for quality assurance and monitoring of performance standards are needed in order to be effective.

While colorectal cancer screening programs have been established in Canada and the USA, most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) do not have such programs, or screening guidelines, and services for colorectal cancer screening and early detection are often not available in the public sector. Guidance is needed on how to effectively implement evidence based and high quality colorectal cancer screening programs, particularly in limited resource settings. Therefore, the Pan American Health Organization, in collaboration with the USA Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) is convening this expert consultation on colorectal cancer screening.

## **Purpose:**

- 1- To present available knowledge and evidence on colorectal cancer screening methods.
- 2- To discuss strategies, successful experiences and challenges in implementing high quality colorectal cancer screening programs.
- 3- To exchange ideas and identify opportunities to create and/or strengthen colorectal cancer screening programs in the region, including feasible quality assurance and program performance standards.

Wednesday, March 16, 2016	
9:00am	<p><b>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</b>  <i>Silvana Luciani</i>, Advisor, Cancer Prevention and Control, PAHO  <i>Mona Saraiya</i>, Medical Officer, Cancer Division, CDC</p>
9:15am	<p><b>SESSION 1: SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ON COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Silvana Luciani, PAHO</p> <p>WHO guidance on cancer early detection and screening in limited resource settings  <i>André Ilbawi</i>, Technical officer, WHO Cancer Program</p> <p>Colorectal cancer screening modalities: summary of evidence  <i>Jesús Garcia-Foncillas</i>, Director, Oncohealth Institute, Madrid, Spain</p> <p>Program requirements for an effective colorectal cancer screening program  <i>Larry von Karsa</i>, Former Head, Quality Assurance Group, IARC</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
10:30am	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:00am	<p><b>SESSION 2: SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM NORTH AMERICA</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Mona Saraiya, CDC</p> <p>Canada's recent evidence review and new colorectal cancer screening guideline  <i>Maria Bacchus</i>, Deputy Head Medicine, AlbertaHealth Services</p> <p>Colorectal cancer screening program considerations and experiences from Ontario's program  <i>Linda Rabeneck</i>, Vice President, Prevention and Cancer Control, Cancer Care Ontario</p> <p>The CDC colorectal cancer screening program: experience and lessons learned  <i>Djenaba Joseph</i>, Medical Director, CDC Colorectal Cancer Program</p> <p>Perspectives on colorectal cancer screening from a USA Territory-Puerto Rico  <i>Guillermo Tortolero-Luna</i>, Director, Cancer Control and Population Sciences  University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center</p>
12:30pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:30pm	<p><b>SESSION 3: COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING IN LAC: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES (I)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Bernardo Nuche, PAHO</p> <p><b>ARGENTINA:</b> <i>Ubaldo Gualdrini</i>, Colorectal Cancer Program, National Cancer Institute  <b>CHILE:</b> <i>Lorena Baez</i>, Ministry of Health.  <b>COSTA RICA:</b> <i>Melissa Ramírez Rojas</i>, Ministry of Health.  <b>MEXICO:</b> <i>Erika Ruiz García</i>, National Cancer Institute  <b>PERU:</b> <i>Tatiana Vidaurre</i>, National Institute of Neoplastic Diseases</p>
3:30pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
3:45pm	<p><b>SESSION 4: COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING IN LAC: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES (II)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Guillermo Tortolero-Luna, Puerto Rico</p> <p><b>BAHAMAS:</b> <i>Eugene Cooper</i>, Princess Margaret Hospital  <b>BARBADOS:</b> <i>Erika Springer-Cyrus</i>, Queen Elizabeth Hospital  <b>BRAZIL:</b> <i>María Beatriz Kneipp Dias</i>- National Cancer Institute  <b>CUBA:</b> <i>Gisela Abreu Ruiz</i>, Ministry of Health  <b>SURINAME:</b> <i>Els Dams</i>, Ministry of Health</p>
5:30pm	<b>Adjourn</b>

Thursday March 17, 2016	
9:00am	<b>RECAP</b> of the discussions and results of the first day. Silvana Luciani, PAHO
9:15am	<p><b>SESSION 5: BARRIERS, CHALLENGES AND NEEDS FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Stephen Taplin, NCI</p> <p>Moderated discussion to identify the common barriers, challenges and country needs to establish and sustain quality screening programs for colorectal cancer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the challenges that your country faces to establish accessible CRC screening?</li> <li>• What are the socioeconomic, political, geographical and cultural barriers for establishing CRC screening programs in your country?</li> <li>• What kind of support would your country need to overcome the barriers to establish CRC screening?</li> <li>• Who are the main stakeholders in the country that can provide that support?</li> </ul>
10:30am	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
10:45am	<p><b>SESSION 6: STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE BARRIERS, CHALLENGES AND NEEDS</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Jesus Garcia-Foncillas, OncoHealth Institute</p> <p>Moderated discussion to identify feasible and realistic strategies to meet country needs for improving the colorectal cancer situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What strategies can be used in LAC countries based on the successful experiences presented on <b>day 1</b>?</li> <li>• What strategies can be used to put CRC in the political agenda, promote investment, build screening capacity and sensitize the population about screening?</li> <li>• Which screening approaches could be used in limited resources settings?</li> </ul>
1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
2:00pm	<p><b>SESSION 7: QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMS</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Larry Von Karsa, IARC</p> <p>Discussion on a proposed minimum standard for quality assurance and performance standards for a high quality colorectal cancer screening program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the indicators proposed for a quality CRC program in LAC?</li> <li>• What are the minimum standards for quality control that are feasible for LAC?</li> <li>• What are the considerations for endoscopy, laboratory and pathology quality controls—equipment, safety and efficiency of the services.</li> </ul>
3:00pm	<p><b>SESSION 8: COLLABORATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Discussion on the external technical support that PAHO, WHO, CDC, and other organizations may be able to offer to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean for colorectal cancer screening.</p>
3.30pm	<p><b>NEXT STEPS</b></p> <p>Discussion and agreement on next steps for a regional approach to improve colorectal cancer screening and early detection.</p> <p><b>CONCLUSIONS</b></p>
4.00pm	<b>End of the Meeting</b>