

CONCEPT NOTE – PRELIMINARY AGENDA
DIABETES REGIONAL MEETING ON IMPROVING CARE AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES
20 AND 21 NOVEMBER, 2024
PAHO HEADQUARTERS, ROOM C, WASHINGTON D.C.

BACKGROUND

Diabetes is a significant and complex public health challenge. The prevalence, mortality, and disability caused by diabetes have risen notably in recent decades, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Between 2000 and 2019, diabetes was the only noncommunicable disease (NCD) that exhibited an increase in premature mortality globally. Unless appropriate interventions are implemented, the burden of diabetes is projected to continue growing. These interventions encompass ensuring that individuals with the disease can access quality healthcare and receive social support for effective management, preventing complications and premature death.

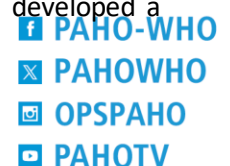
In the Region of the Americas, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading causes of death, accounting for 81% of all deaths, with one-third occurring prematurely (between 30 and 70 years of age). An estimated 240 million adults in the Americas live with at least one NCD and require ongoing access to primary health care. In addition, the Americas currently show the highest overall burden of diabetes among the six World Health Organization (WHO) regions. Consequently, diabetes has been suggested as an effective tracer condition for understanding and addressing other NCDs.

In 2021, the WHO launched the Global Diabetes Compact (GDC) with the goal that all people with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable, and quality treatment and care. The GDC also seeks to close priority research and normative gaps while spurring innovation. The new evidence-based PAHO initiative on "Better Care for NCDs: Accelerating Actions in Primary Health Care," launched at the 60th Directing Council in September 2023, includes normative guidance and quality of care improvement through evidence-based NCDs' health service delivery, including diabetes.

Extensive research on diabetes prevention and care has been conducted globally. However, two overarching challenges persist. First, there is a gap between scientific knowledge and its implementation in policy and practice globally. The second, much of existing research originates from high income countries which often cannot be translated or transferred to other settings. To address these challenges, Resolution 74.4 of the 2021 World Health Assembly (WHA) urges Member States "To strengthen monitoring and evaluation of diabetes responses, through country-level surveillance and monitoring systems, including surveys, that are integrated into existing national health information systems, and by identifying priority areas for diabetes research." To reach this goal, in 2023, the WHO developed a

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prioritized diabetes research agenda in collaboration with the Universities of Geneva and Sydney and the financial support of the Geneva Science-Policy Interface. WHO wished to formally launch this new diabetes research agenda, through regional engagement, and the Americas region has been selected for this launch.

The launch is within the framework of the Better Care for NCDs initiative and to strengthen the regional implementation of the GDC. The Pan American Health Organization, in collaboration with WHO and the University of Geneva, is organizing a hybrid event for Wednesday, November 20, 2024. This event will take place in Washington, D.C., United States of America, with simultaneous transmission through the institutional Zoom platform. Its purpose is to present the global diabetes research agenda and contribute to guiding its translation into health policies aimed at improving the quality of diabetes care in the countries of the Region of the Americas.

Following the hybrid event, in-person workshops will be held with representatives from ministries of health and academia to deepen the discussion about integrating diabetes research into health decision-making in the Region of the Americas.

The aim of the thematic workshops will be to present:

- Current knowledge on the gaps in diabetes care and in the Region of the Americas
- Current challenges to improve diabetes care for policy makers
- The diabetes research priorities for the Region

Following these presentations the aim will be to identify further areas of research/knowledge translation needed for each thematic area.

As part of these workshops, a regional consultation will introduce the goals, scope, and process of the new WHO initiative on the global implementation research agenda for NCDs, which aims for an integrated approach to these diseases.

OBJECTIVES OF THE HYBRID EVENT

- Introducing the global diabetes research agenda in the Region of the Americas.
- Emphasizing the need to improve diabetes care.
- Discussing implementation strategies to enhance diabetes diagnosis and treatment, in the context of the PAHO Better Care for NCDs initiative.
- Encouraging applied research to improve diabetes care.

PARTICIPANTS

The target audience is:

- Ministry of Health authority responsible for NCDs/diabetes from selected countries in the Region of the Americas.
- PAHO/NMH staff in the regional, subregional, and national offices.
- Health professionals involved in activities for the prevention and control of NCDs and their risk factors.
- Academics involved in diabetes research, and non-governmental organizations related to diabetes.

AGENDA

Day 1: Wednesday, November 20

Zoom link: https://paho-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WDF10TbBT7WmBM9n7-l6Cw

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| 10:30 a.m. | Opening remarks
Dr. Anselm Hennis, Director, Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, PAHO |
| 10:45 a.m. | Global Diabetes Compact and global perspectives
Dr. Bianca Hemmingsen, Medical Officer, Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO |
| 11:00 a.m. | Strategies to improve diabetes care, and in the context of the PAHO Better Care for NCDs initiative
Dr. Carmen Antini, Advisor, Diabetes Prevention and Control, PAHO |
| 11:15 a.m. | From research to care: the role of evidence in diabetes care
Dr. David Beran, WHO Technical Advisory Group on Diabetes (TAG-D) / University of Geneva, Switzerland |
| 11:30 a.m. | Global Diabetes Research Agenda
Dr. Gojka Roglic, Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO HQ |
| 11:45 a.m. | Building the bridge between research and implementation: gaps, challenges, and opportunities for a comprehensive diabetes research agenda
<i>Moderator:</i> Silvana Luciani, Unit Chief, Noncommunicable Diseases, Violence and Injury Prevention, PAHO
- Dr. Jill Louise Farrington, Regional Medical Officer, CVD and Diabetes, WHO - Regional Office for Europe
- Dr. Kouamivi Agboyibor, Senior Technical Advisor, NCDs, WHO - Regional Office for Africa
- Dr. Percy Herrera, Ministry of Health of Peru
- Dr. Maria Lucia Corrêa-Giannella, University of Sao Paulo
- Dr. Simon Anderson, University of the West Indies - Barbados |
| 12:45 p.m. | Closing remarks |

Silvana Luciani, Unit Chief, Noncommunicable Diseases, Violence and Injury Prevention, PAHO

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS AGENDA

Day 1: Wednesday, November 20

Zoom link: https://paho-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Wh5TuwzcT4C8J2nFwC4sqQ

2:00 p.m. **Introduction to thematic workshops**

2:15 p.m. **Workshop 1. Data and diabetes in the Americas: what we know, what we do not know**

Moderator: Dr. Roberta Caixeta, Advisor, Noncommunicable Diseases Surveillance, Prevention and Control, PAHO

Co-moderator: Gretchen Stevens, Consultant, Department of Health Statistics and Information Services, WHO

3:00 p.m. **Workshop 2. Primary Health Care and diabetes: current challenges and opportunities**

Moderator: Dr. Carmen Antini, Advisor, Diabetes Prevention and Control, PAHO

Co-moderator: Dr. Ludovic Reveiz, Unit Chief, Science and Knowledge for Impact, PAHO

3:45 p.m. **Workshop 3. Policies for diabetes prevention, management and care in the Region of the Americas**

Moderator: Dr. Vanessa García Larsen, Unit Chief, Risk Factors and Nutrition, PAHO

Co-moderator: Dr. Carmen Antini, Advisor, Diabetes Prevention and Control, PAHO

4:30 p.m. **Closing of Day 1**

Day 2: Thursday, November 21

Zoom links: https://paho-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wT3xP93sQnuuqWFhCpjqaA

09:00 a.m. **Welcome and recap of the prior day**

09:30 a.m. **Workshop 4. Barriers to access to medicines and associated supplies**

Moderator: Dr. Juliana Borges Vallini, Advisor, Policies on Access to Medicines and Health Technologies, PAHO

Co-moderator: Dr. David Beran, WHO Technical Advisory Group on Diabetes (TAG-D) / University of Geneva, Switzerland

10:15 a.m. **Workshop 5. Gestational diabetes: What we need to know**

Moderator: Dr. Bremen De Mucio, Advisor, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Latin American Center for Perinatology, Women and Reproductive Health (CLP/WR), PAHO

Co-moderator: Dr. Doris Chou, Medical Officer, Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health, WHO HQ

11:00 a.m. **Coffee break**

11:30 a.m. **Workshop 6. What role for communities in improving diabetes care?**

Moderator: Dr. Orielle Solar Hormazabal, Unit Chief, Health Promotion and Social Determinants of Health, PAHO

12:15 p.m. **Workshop 7. Type 1 Diabetes: How we can move forward?**

Moderator: Dr. Bianca Hemmingsen, Medical Officer, Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO

1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

2:00 p.m. **Workshop 8. Improving quality of care and Human Resources for diabetes management**

Moderator: Dr. Gisele Almeida, Advisor, Human Resources for Health Evidence and Knowledge, Human Resources for Health Governance and Management, PAHO

2:45 p.m. **Regional consultation: Developing a WHO global NCD implementation research agenda**

Moderator: Giulia Loffreda, Consultant, WHO Department for Noncommunicable Diseases, Rehabilitation and Disability & Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

Topics:

- Feedback and suggestions on the proposed process to develop global priorities for NCD implementation research
- Suggestions for NCD implementation research in the region

3:45 p.m. **Coffee break**

4:00 p.m. **Reflections from the Thematic workshops**

Moderators:

- Silvana Luciani, Unit Chief, Noncommunicable Diseases, Violence and Injury Prevention, PAHO
- Dr. Carmen Antini, Advisor, Diabetes Prevention and Control, PAHO
- Dr. Bianca Hemmingsen, Medical Officer, Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO
- Dr. Gojka Roglic, Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO
- Dr. David Beran, WHO Technical Advisory Group on Diabetes (TAG-D) / University of Geneva, Switzerland

4:30 p.m. **Closing remarks**

Silvana Luciani, Unit Chief, Noncommunicable Diseases, Violence and Injury Prevention, PAHO



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