

Chronic Disease Prevention & Control in the Americas



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WHO/ICO Information Centre on Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and Cervical Cancer

A new interactive website on cervical cancer has been launched by WHO's Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) Department and the Institut Català d'Oncologia's (ICO) Cancer Epidemiology and Registration Unit (SERC) in Barcelona, Spain.



The new WHO/ICO [Information Centre on Human Papilloma Virus \(HPV\) and Cervical Cancer](#) aggregates relevant data on cervical cancer and provides global, regional and country-specific data on:

- ➔ HPV prevalence and type distribution,
- ➔ burden of HPV-related diseases,
- ➔ epidemiological determinants of cervical cancer, such as demographics, socioeconomic factors and other risk co-factors,
- ➔ estimates on the burden of HPV infection,
- ➔ data on immunization and cervical cancer screening, and
- ➔ sexual and demographic data.

All this is useful for decision-makers and program planners in designing and/or upgrading cervical cancer prevention programs, implementing prevention strategies, and introducing the HPV vaccine.

Users visiting the HPV Information Centre will be able to query and download data of interest as well as standard reports summarizing all the data available for a selected country or region. Emphasis has been put on user-friendliness.

Data will be periodically updated to keep users informed of the latest information available and to aid decision-makers when seeking information for sound policies.

The website was developed by Institut Català d'Oncologia under subcontract to WHO. It is being funded primarily by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) with a secondary grant from the ICO and Spain's [Ministry of Health](#) through the Fondo de Investigación Santiaria, CIBERS ESP and RETIC Oncology.

Progress in the Countries

Meetings in Nicaragua: National Plan and CAMDI

J. Consultation for the National Plan for Communicable Diseases of Nicaragua (Managua, 2 July 2007)



With a view to establishing a plan of execution for the four lines of action of the [Regional Strategy on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases Including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health](#), PAHO held a national

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consultation meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, on 2 July 2007 to discuss strategies for integrated management and epidemiological surveillance. The participants identified priorities for continued collaboration with PAHO in the area of chronic noncommunicable diseases.

Representatives from Nicaragua's [Ministry of Health](#), the [National Autonomous University of Nicaragua](#), and the Nicaraguan Association of Endocrinology also participated in the meeting, along with representatives of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP). The activity was coordinated by PAHO, with support in Nicaragua provided by Dr. Alberto Barceló, Regional Advisor for Noncommunicable Diseases.



II. CAMDI Collaborative Project, First Learning Session, 3-4 July 2007

As part of the second stage of development of the *Central American Diabetes Initiative* (CAMDI), an intervention was started in four centers of Managua, Nicaragua, to improve care for people with diabetes. The intervention began with application of the [Breakthrough Series Methodology](#). In the first learning session, teams from local health centers participated in this project and identified the main activities they need to develop to improve the quality of services offered to people with diabetes. At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed on a change package for implementing the intervention and made agreements on training the core teams who will spearhead the intervention.

The [PAHO Noncommunicable Disease Unit](#) is carrying out this project, with support from [PAHO-Nicaragua](#). Drs. Alberto Barceló and Enrique Pérez Flores, together with Elizabeth Cafiero, facilitated this event. Also present



was Dr. Sandra Delon, Director of Health Services in Calgary, Canada.

Colombia: Community Service Research Network Dedicated to Care for Persons with Chronic Diseases

Chronic disease patients and their caregivers can get access to support and consultation services through the Web page of the [Research Group on Care for Patients with Chronic Diseases and Their Families](#) of the School of Nursing of the National University of Colombia. The site provides an environment of communication and integrated networks with a commitment to providing care for the population directly or indirectly affected by chronic diseases. The website is available for professionals from the health sector (nurses, physicians, therapists, students, specialists, and other persons on health teams) as well as for non-professionals (family caretakers, friends, relatives, and others who make up the support network of people with chronic diseases).



Courtesy of the Chronic Care Group of the School of Nursing of the National University of Colombia

The website provides access to the Research Group's nursing consultation services, support networks (both formal and informal) and clusters in the research network inside Colombia (Cartagena, Santa Marta, Cúcuta, Ibagué, Cundinamarca, Meta, and Bogotá) and in Latin America (Guatemala, Panama and Argentina). The network also offers the group's best-known program, "[Caring for Caretakers](#)", aimed at strengthening the skills of family caretakers.



This program is carried out in 10 sessions that allow family members to be recognized as caretakers, to understand their own strengths as well as those of the persons they care for, and to acknowledge their need to take care of themselves in order to provide better care for their families. The program helps participants identify the rewards of caring tasks,

develop strategies for decision-making, and recognize available support networks. Finally, it helps caretakers understand the importance of drawing on their own life experiences to identify weaknesses and to grow as caretakers.

The group invites the community to participate in this network or to communicate with its members to help promote care with a human touch for people with chronic diseases. For more information, contact the [program](#).

Contribution from Lorena Chaparro Díaz, Nurse, Doctoral Candidate in the Nursing School of the National University of Colombia.



PROMOTE. PREVENT. TREAT. CARE

STOP THE GLOBAL EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC DISEASE

Information Resources

An Economic Perspective on Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases account for the greatest share of early death and disability in both the developed and developing world—and the threat is growing. The World Health Organization (WHO) projects that deaths from chronic diseases will increase by 17% over the next 10 years. While the epidemiological evidence is increasingly clear, little evidence exists on the economic consequences of chronic diseases.

To address this gap, the Oxford Health Alliance recently published [Chronic Disease: an Economic Perspective](#)^{*}, which evaluates

current knowledge on the economic consequences of chronic diseases and their related risk factors in low- and middle-income countries. The paper highlights the economic rationale for government intervention to address the determinants of chronic disease.

It provides a critical review of the available evidence—a necessary first step in exploring the case for governments and donors to invest in chronic disease prevention—and suggests areas in which further research is needed.

^{*}Full reference: Marc Suhrcke, Rachel A. Nugent, David Stuckler and Lorenzo Rocco, 2006. *Chronic Disease: an Economic Perspective*. Oxford Health Alliance.



The PAHO/WHO Chronic Disease Program invites the readers of this newsletter to submit contributions of interest for the Americas. Send contributions (1–3 paragraphs) to Dr. James Hospedales (hospedaj@paho.org) with copy to Pilar Fano (fanopili@paho.org) and Suzanna Stephens (stephens@paho.org). Your feedback on this newsletter would be appreciated. Instructions and criteria can be found on the homepage for this newsletter at the web link below:

<http://www.paho.org/english/ad/dpc/nc/cronic.htm>