



Working together to promote health equity and well-being for Latin American communities

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM PST

Webinar: Knowledge-Sharing and Action Network on Health Equity in the Americas

PARTICIPANTS:

Francisco Armada, Instituto Suramericano de Gobierno en Salud/ UNASUR
Ximena Avellaneda, GESMujer
Elysse Bautista, FUNSALUD
Pedro Mas Bermejo, Instituto de Medicina Tropical Pedro Kourí
Carlos Caceres, University Cayetano Heredia
Arachu Castro, Tulane University
Anne Dubois, UCLA Blum Center
Alvaro Franco, Universidad de Antioquia
Luis Galvão, Fundación Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ)
Bri-Ann Hernandez, UCLA Blum Center
Ilene Hyman, University of Toronto
Andrea Leiva, UCLA Blum Center
Malgorzata Miskurka, Public Health Agency of Canada
Cory Mengual, UCLA Blum Center
Amy E. Ritterbusch, PARCES
Michael Rodriguez, UCLA Blum Center
Rocio Saenz, National University Costa Rica
Melissa C. Smith, UC Santa Barbara

1. Welcome - Michael Rodriguez, UCLA Blum Center

We are working toward sharing knowledge, progressing engagement, and promoting action from the members. There are several focus areas in health we can work toward, thus it is imperative to take note of the distinct areas and policies we want to prioritize to prepare for next steps and to better align ourselves with the themes identified by the PAHO Commission. A straw poll of webinar participants of policy areas of high priority for their respective country revealed: the top three priorities in descending order are gender equality; race, ethnicity and indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants; poverty and environmental.

2. Network Activities – Michael Rodriguez, UCLA Blum Center

Summit 2017 and Knowledge-Sharing and Action Network Report

The report is being written and designed to better communicate who we are and where we are going, as well as provide updates and progress to those outside the network who can financially support us.

PAHO Report Contributions

10 members including Castro, Dubois, Galvao, Gutierrez, Hahn, Hyman, Mas, Rodriguez, Saenz, and Saiso have submitted a total of 106 articles to the PAHO Commission. The broad topic areas for contributions include health, migration, education and climate change.

Action Item: Members are encouraged to submit materials and participate in the platform. If invitation to site has not been received or if you are having issues with uploading files, please email andrealeiva@mednet.ucla.edu for assistance.

3. Network Governance/ Structure Subcommittee – Rocio Saenz, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica

Rocio Saenz reviewed the Network’s goals and objectives, which ultimately promote knowledge-sharing and intersectoral action to promote equity in health and human rights in the Americas. The objectives proposed by the Governance subcommittee establish how we are going to ensure the sustainability of the Network, in the short- and long-term.

Goals and objectives outlined below and the complete version is included as Exhibit 1 to these notes.

<p><u>Goal 1:</u> Identify, develop and share equity policies and practices through an intersectoral Network comprising leaders dedicated to health equity in the Americas.</p>	<p>SHORT TERM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Establish and sustain a visionary knowledge-sharing and action network that positions equity in health as a priority issue. <p>LONGER TERM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2 Advocate for change of unfair or harmful policies that threaten health equity and human rights for all populations.1.3 Support network members through an exchange, development of, accumulation of, and adaptation of knowledge.
<p><u>Goal 2:</u> Support and develop action on improving health equity through pro-equity policies and practices that consider social determinants of health, health equity and human rights affecting all populations throughout the Americas.</p>	<p>SHORT TERM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Inform the work of the PAHO Commission by collecting information that provides evidence to support the 10 areas of health equity work being studied by the Commission.2.2 Extend the work of the PAHO Commission’s expected 2018 Report on Health Equity in the Americas by planning actions to drive policy and programming change. <p>LONGER TERM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2.3 Encourage translational research and policy work supporting programming to reduce health equity gaps2.4 Foster policy dialog between civil society, government, decision makers, academia and other sectors to develop strategies to promote policy implementation

<p>Goal 3: Monitor progress of actions and policies and their impact on health equity, the social determinants of health, and human rights in the Americas.</p>	<p>SHORT TERM 3.1. Identify equity indicators related to gender equality, ethnicity, indigenous populations, the social determinants of health, social cohesion, resilience and societal norms.</p> <p>LONGER TERM 3.2. Develop a robust plan for monitoring progress and evaluating effectiveness of implemented policies and practices to learn systematically about best practices</p>
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Luiz Galvao brought up the question of whether the Commission has any position on the governance of the Network. As explained by Michael Rodriguez: the Commission sees the Network as an independent body, separate from the Commission, which at the same time supports and works with the Commission.

Pedro Mas stated that research into funding sources should be explored. As noted by Rocio Saenz this was an important question brought up in Cuernavaca as finding funding opportunities is necessary to ensure work of and sustainability of the Network.

Michael Rodriguez agreed that what Pedro Mas proposed to search for funding on a regional level, is important for the sustainability of the Network.

Per Elysse Bautista, FUNSALUD can help support this research info funding.

Action Items: UCLA Blum Center will conduct an inventory of Network expertise on priority areas related to PAHO Commission; identify decision makers; and begin process of organizing by topic areas to begin planning action steps to work toward improved policies.

4. Network Related News/Events

As a recurring meeting agenda item, Network members are encouraged to share news of their work that corresponds to the goals/objectives of the Network. News to be shared may include new collaborations, upcoming events, news from member institutions, publication opportunities, research findings, successful interventions, proven policies, etc.

Proposed Activity of the Network: Informational Webinars

Michael Rodriguez proposed that the Network undertake a series of webinars that that explore tools, policies and programs effective for improving health equity in the region and called on members to think of topics and a 40-minute presentation that would not only advance their work but also provide training/information to others. The webinars would be open to Network members as well as others interested in health equity work

Webinar 1: Health Inequality Tool

The first webinar of this series will be a demonstration of a health inequality data tool with emphasis on available inequality measures for indigenous peoples. It will be produced by Malgorzata Miskurka, PhD and her team from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The webinar is scheduled for mid-April. Watch for more information to come.

ABRASCÃO

Luis Galvao shared information about Brazil's largest public health event to be hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on July 26-29, 2018. He will be speaking to support and promote the Network and encourage meeting participants to join the Network. The Congress' sessions will address issues of rights and democracy, as well as the single payer health system. The Congress will attract Brazilian academics and many service providers, with much representation from Latin American countries. <http://www.saudecoletiva.org.br/index.php>

As mentioned by Alvaro Franco: A similar event to ABRASCÃO is being held in Medellín next fall. The University of Antioquia will host the V LATIN AMERICAN GLOBAL HEALTH (ALASAG) CONGRESS on November 14, 15 and 16, to which he invited Network members to present at the ALASAG Congress. About 11 ALASAG countries will attend. The issues of health equity as they are being raised in this Network will be the focus of the Medellin Congress.

UC Global Health Day and PAHO Independent Commission Meeting

Other upcoming meetings where information about the Network will be shared include PAHO Commissioner's meeting in Atlanta early March, and the UC Global Health Day in April 22, 2018 in San Diego, CA.

Action Items:1. Members with news, training or other information related to the Network should email Mrodriguez@mednet.ucla.edu to provide a brief description of the information they would like to share.
2. Members who would like to present/produce a training webinar for larger broadcast for the bi-monthly informational webinar series should email Mrodriguez@mednet.ucla.edu with a synopsis and outline of your proposed training.

5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 8 AM PT.

Knowledge-Sharing and Action Network on Health Equity in the Americas
Preliminary Objectives
2.25.18, v5

Goal 1. To identify, develop and share equity policies and practices through an intersectoral Network comprising leaders dedicated to health equity in the Americas.

Short-term

Objective 1.1. To establish and sustain a visionary knowledge-sharing and action network that positions equity in health as a priority issue in the intersectoral policy and intervention agendas of the nations of the Americas through a cadre of health equity experts and entities. Infrastructure planning will include:

- operational and structural plans and policies that will provide governance and day-to-day processes and operations for the Network;
- a development plan for the Network that will provide financial stability and sustainability for long-term operations;
- an infrastructure for advocacy and communications strategies and activities through traditional, social and digital media, platforms and campaigns.

Longer-Term

Objective 1.2. To become advocates for change of unfair or harmful policies that threaten the social determinants of health, health equity and human rights for all populations by influencing decision makers in all sectors of community life at all levels: local, regional, state, national.

Objective 1.3. To support network members through an exchange, development of, accumulation of, and adaptation of knowledge pertinent to each member's work in the focus areas of the Network.

Goal 2. To support and develop action on improving health equity through pro-equity policies and practices that consider social determinants of health, health equity and human rights affecting all populations throughout the Americas.

Objective 2.1. To inform the work of the PAHO Commission by collecting information that provides evidence to support the Commission's work to form recommendations of actions to impact the 10 areas of health equity work being studied by the Commission.

Objective 2.2. To extend the work of the PAHO Commission's expected 2018 Report on Health Equity in the Americas by planning actions and support social movements to drive needed policy and programming change.

Longer-term

2.3. To encourage translational research and policy work that will support implementation of programming to reduce health equity gaps.

2.4. To foster policy dialog between civil society, government, decision makers, academia and other sectors to develop strategies that will promote implementation of policy to promote health equity.

Goal 3. To monitor progress of actions and policies and their impact on health equity, the social determinants of health, and human rights in the Americas.

Objective 3.1. To identify equity indicators that can be aligned with sustainable development goals (SDGs) including gender equality and health equity among ethnic minority and indigenous populations, and strengthening the social determinants of health, social cohesion, resilience and societal norms.

Longer-term

Objective 3.2. To develop a robust plan for monitoring progress and evaluating effectiveness of implemented policies and practices to learn systematically about best practices.