ASU PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre contributes in the design of a work proposal aimed at improving public health policies towards universal health in Central America and the Dominican Republic


The main aim of the meeting was to look at options to develop networks, clusters for knowledge management and training of human resources aimed at improving public health policies in Central America and the Dominican Republic, and their contribution to public policies towards Universal Health. The focus of the meeting was the training of personnel in Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Pedagogical and epidemiological paradigms have been tested in the Americas since 2000, when "Global Health" was incorporated as multidisciplinary and academic, including bioinformatics, pedagogy, social sciences, nursing and public health, community research, in Brazil, Colombia, Spain and the United States and PAHO.

Social sciences inclusion in the training of personnel of all sectors of public health

Dr. Hurtado participated in a round table moderated by: Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo Amore, Office of Knowledge Management, Bioethics and Research of PAHO HQ Office, Washington DC.; Dr. Andrés López of the Andalusian School of Public Health, Province of Granada, Spain; and Dr. Nancy Gore Saravia of the CIDEIM Center, Cali, Colombia. During her contribution Dr. Hurtado emphasized the need to include the social sciences in the training of personnel of all sectors of public health given the translation of evidence is mainly a cultural and social phenomenon. “Each agent that acts in favor of improvements in public health, willing or not, is acting as a promoter or manager in small cultural and social worlds linked by global networks (small world networks).”

ASU tops U.S. News & World Report list of most innovative schools

ASU emphasizes a track record of innovation and inter-professional collaboration in community-based intervention research for health, health policy, and health equity, both locally to globally. The ASU PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre to Advance the Policy on Research for Health, under the direction of Dr. Carol Baldwin and Dr. David Coon, exemplifies and extends ASU’s innovation and inter-professional connections in training health professionals and lay health workers to support human resource infrastructure and support health policy toward health equity in the Americas.
Multisectoral approach and implementation of policies and actions to address the social determinants of health

Dr. Amalia Del Riego, Chief of the Health Access and Services Unit at PAHO HQ Office, Washington, DC. indicated that “Universal access to health and universal health coverage imply that all persons and communities have access, without any discrimination to comprehensive, adequate, timely, and quality health services; while at the same time ensures that the use of such services does not expose users to financial difficulties. Both require the definition and implementation of policies and actions with a multisectoral approach to address the social determinants of health and promote the commitment of all society to promote health and well-being.” https://youtu.be/bl5zrlXoK9Q

The main outcomes of the meeting were: the identification of priority lines of intervention for knowledge management in networks and training of human resources for the formulation of health policies; as well as the identification of modalities for linking universities and ministries to promote better communication, intersectoral collaboration, and community involvement.

These outcomes also align with the United Nations mandates. In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a new and ambitious Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, through which countries commit to work without rest and in a collaborative way to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions. In this agenda, access to health and well-being is considered a human right, as a basis thus that all people can reach the highest levels of health and health care.

Related Resources:

1. Meeting Documents (Agenda, list of participants and presentations)
   http://www.observatoriorh.org/centro/?q=node/238

2. ASU PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre
   https://nursingandhealth.asu.edu/research/centers/who-cc

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