Connecting International Partners to Strengthen Health Systems and Respond to Health Inequities

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Salud Mesoamerica 2015 Initiative

Planning Committee
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Health
HEALTH IS...

“the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (WHO, 1948)

Ability to adapt and self manage in the face of social, physical, and emotional challenges.
Despite public opinion, health is neither created nor maintained solely within the health sector.
Human rights principles provide guidance to promote health

- The inter-connected and indivisible rights to:
  - the highest attainable standard of health
  - education, living standard adequate for health, benefits of progress
- Ratifying human rights agreements obligates governments to progressively remove obstacles to realizing all rights
  - Particularly for groups who have more obstacles
Latin America

Globally significant
Rich in history
Cultural greatness
Geographically beautiful
Diverse populations
Economic powerhouse
Progress – Latin America

Since 1990, poverty rates have been halved (UNDP, 2013).

Improved standards of living = rapid population growth in recent years.

Poverty in rural areas = urbanization = related health challenges.
UCLA Blum Center Mission

Working across boundaries to reduce poverty and health inequalities in Latin America
Goal 1: Research

Informing responses to social determinants contributing to health inequities

Improved health outcomes for Latin American populations
Goal 2: Policy

Putting Big Data to Work

Analyses and Algorithms

Identifying Needs

Informing Policy

Identifying effective policy strategies and building enhancements
Goal 3: Training

Educating students and training researchers about social determinants of health

Robust pipeline of young researchers initiating solutions for improved health outcomes among Latin American populations

Research training  Coursework  Mentored field experience
Training & Education

Summer Scholar Program
Second Annual Spring Conference
Connecting International Partners to Strengthen Health Systems and Respond to Health Inequities

May 6 & 7, 2014
De Neve Auditorium, UCLA

Annual Conference
Freshman Cluster Course
SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tearing down the silos
BUILDING COLLABORATIONS

Richard C. Blum,
UC Regents

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

IDB

salud mesoamérica 2015
ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

International Organizations
- Centro de Investigación y Docencia Economicas (CIDE)
- Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles
- Consulate General of Venezuela in San Francisco
- Dr. Henri Gerard Desgranges (HGD) Foundation - Haiti
- Friends NE
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO)
- Universidad Nacional Autonoma Nicaragua
- World Bank

Representatives from 11 Latin American countries, including:
- Argentina
- Belize
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Venezuela
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

UCLA Schools and Colleges
- College of Letters and Science, Division of Humanities and the Division of Social Sciences
- David Geffen School of Medicine
- Department of Education
- Fielding School of Public Health
- Luskin School of Public Affairs
- School of Dentistry
- School of Law
- School of Nursing

UCLA and Area Institutes and Centers
- Center for Health Policy Research
- Center for World Health
- Center of Expertise in Women’s Health and Empowerment
- Center of Expertise on Migration and Health
- Chicano Studies Research Center
- Clinical and Translational Science Institute
- International Institute
- Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- Latin American Institute
- Program on International Migration
- UCLA Art and Global Health Center
- UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program
- WORLD Policy Analysis Center
UCLA Blum Center principles

1. Country driven
2. Social justice and equity aligned
3. Complementary
4. Inclusive and collaborative
5. Capacity building
6. Innovative
7. Prioritize most vulnerable
8. Results orientated
9. Sustainability conscious
Tuesday Sessions

- International partnerships can affect human capital and health systems – Keynote
- Successful programs that strengthen health systems and develop the workforce – Plenary Session 1
- IDB’s work to accelerate MDG goals in the Americas and reduce equity gaps – Luncheon address
- Explore the Culture of Health with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Plenary Session 2
- Salud Mesoamerica 2015 Initiative: how data is driving results – Plenary Session 3
- End the day with a reception, networking and entertainment event
Wednesday Sessions

Regional efforts to scale up innovations that decrease inequities in poverty and health – Plenary Session 4

Two-hour Working Sessions

Your opportunity to get involved to inform the RWJF Culture of Health. Choose from one of three sessions:

- Working Session 1A: Values and Social Cohesion
- Working Session 1B: Multi-Sector Collaboration
- Working Session 1C: Putting Data in the Driver’s Seat to Steer Policy and Systems for Equitable Health
It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old; they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams. —

Gabriel García Márquez
Your Role at the Conference

- Listen, learn, ask questions
- Meet fellow researchers – exchange ideas
- Strengthen our resolve to reduce poverty and improve health outcomes in all Latin American populations

REDUCE HEALTH INEQUITIES