

**Seventh Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the
Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME)**

**BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH)**

The Seventh Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on September 30th, 2021, in compliance with Resolution 5 of the 49th Directing Council of PAHO/WHO (CD49.R5) in which the BIREME Statute was approved, in effect since the year 2010, which defines its new institutional framework.

The current members of the Scientific Committee (SC) were nominated during the Eighth Session of the Advisory Committee (AC) of BIREME on October 24th and 25th, 2019 for a three-year mandate (2020-2022). They are experts from 5 (five) PAHO/WHO Member States: Brazil, Argentina, México, Peru, United States of America and Netherlands.

FINAL REPORT

São Paulo (SP), September 30th, 2021

FINAL REPORT

OPENING OF THE SESSION

- 1) On September 30th, 2021, the VII Session of the SC of the Center was held online, which performs consultative functions before the Advisory Committee and the Director of PAHO/WHO. The session began with a welcome by Diego González Machín, Director of BIREME on the occasion and Secretary ex officio of the Committee.
- 2) The presence and participation of the specialists of the Scientific Committee (SC) was thanked and the importance of holding the meeting within the framework of the continued development of the Center was stressed.
- 3) Sebastián Garcia Saiso, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH), as soon as he got online, highlighted the specific objectives of the session, recognizing the participation of specialists and the importance of their contributions to strengthening the products, projects, services, and networks that BIREME/PAHO/WHO coordinates regionally with the countries of the Region.
- 4) The members of the SC and the participants of BIREME introduced themselves and the work was started.

Regulation Matters

- 5) The following experts were appointed to constitute the Board of the BIREME Scientific Committee in its seventh session:

Chair: Cezar Augusto Cabezas (Peru)

Rapporteur: Antonio Sánchez Pereyra (Mexico)

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PRESENTATION

6) The presentations were structured as follows:

Institutionality Progress in the implementation of the Recommendations of the
VI Session of the BIREME 2020 Scientific Committee

First Axis Financial Sustainability

Second Axis Scientific Communication

Third Axis Technical Cooperation: Information products and services

Fourth Axis Technical Cooperation: Information technologies for technical
cooperation

7) The Director of BIREME began with the presentation: “Progress in the implementation of the Recommendations of the VI Session of the BIREME 2020 Scientific Committee”. During his presentation, he pointed out the technical cooperation program of the Center, its projects, products and services available to the countries of the Region (and outside of it) at the local, national, regional and global levels of action, with emphasis on actions carried out from December 2020 to date, highlighting BIREME's strategic priorities and actions.

8) Silvia Almeida de Valentín (GA) in the first axis, on the financial sustainability of the Center, highlighted the Biannual Work Plan 2020-2021 (PTB 20-21), the financial sustainability and aspects of the general operation of BIREME. She highlighted how the Center could expand the funding sources of its PTB also to motivate the reflection of the members and the key elements for sustainable development. She clarified that all BIREME's work is aligned and contributes to the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and PAHO/WHO Technical Cooperation Work Plan. In addition, she stressed that BIREME's new institutional framework is still being implemented, pending the formalization of its Headquarters Agreement in Brazil. In addition, the conformation of the membership of the Center, to be composed of the Member States of PAHO/WHO, international and public organizations in scientific-technical information and communication, is still in the process of elaboration, as is in the BIREME Statute.

9) Lilian Calò (COM/DIR) presented the scientific communication axis, highlighting the scientific communication courses in the Portuguese language, launched in 2021, and in the Spanish language, launched in 2019. She also presented the scientific communication actions (VHL Scientific Communication, situation of indexing of AL&C journals in the databases, indexing criteria, face-to-face courses of scientific communication which can be carried out in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French) and presented the institutional communication channels of the Center (Institutional website, PAHO Intranet, BIREME Bulletin, social networks, and PSI and FiguePorDentro internal bulletin) and update dynamics.

- 10) Carmen Verónica Abdala (PFI/SCI), in the technical cooperation axis with emphasis on information services and products, presented the actions of information and knowledge management, for decision-making with a focus on networking, activities and initiatives in 2021, aligned with the recommendations of the VI SC. She highlighted the continuing update and new Windows of Knowledge that were released in 2021, such as the COVID-19 Natural History Window of Knowledge. She also highlighted the evidence maps developed in conjunction with countries in the Region.
- 11) Renato Murasaki (AFI / MTI), in the technical cooperation axis focused on information technologies, presented the advances in the area, which includes database administration and health terminology, considering the recommendations of the VI SC. He shared data on increasing visibility and access to technical and scientific information in health available in the Virtual Health Library (VHL). He highlighted the e-BlueInfo product, advances in initiatives with the WHO and developments in open data and impact measurement.

Comments and Recommendations

- 12) The discussions, comments and recommendations issued, facilitated by the President of the Session and by the Secretary ex officio, in addition to recognizing BIREME's progress in the presentations and in the products and services of technical cooperation, were directed towards the continuous development and strengthening of BIREME, expressed in proposals for innovations and alignments as detailed in the specific recommendations below, and the need for a more effective dissemination of its projects, products and services in the countries of the Region, seeking intersectoral partners was reiterated.
- 13) Barend Mons reinforces the recommendation (of the VI SC) to focus on research data and create databases to deposit this data instead of feeding databases of texts/articles, as BIREME does. It is necessary to guide and request the editors of journals to require the authors of the articles to deposit the data underlying the research. He mentioned the initiative presented in An Academic Publishers' GO FAIR Implementation Network (APIN) (<https://content.iospress.com/articles/information-services-and-use/isu200102>) (This is an article that presents a proposal for the network of commercial publishers actively involved in the formulation of protocols and standards that make published scientific research material machine-readable to facilitate that the data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR)) and recommended that BIREME could also join this initiative.
- 14) Fabio Tarasow has commented that he is available to discuss and suggest new formats for courses and trainings.

- 15) Jorge Barreto suggests that it would be possible to improve "trust" in shared information, for example, in evidence maps, where the effectiveness of the interventions is discussed. It undertakes to promote the products and services developed by BIREME.
- 16) Cezar Cabezas speaks of integrity in research and credibility of science (adherence to the Covid-19 vaccine, for example) and suggests expanding training in scientific communication for students and young researchers to support the creation of ethical awareness in the investigation. He expressed the desire and intention to share the recent progress made by BIREME in his country, considering that they are of great relevance.
- 17) Amanda Wilson highlighted the following points: (a) training for information science professionals to support researchers; (b) support for the user to understand the importance of the quality of the information; (c) initiatives in artificial intelligence; (d) initiatives outside the Region, such as Africa.
- 18) Antonio Sánchez emphasized that there should be a more frequent exchange between BIREME and the members of the SC, not only in the annual sessions, so that they are continuously updated on the developments of the Center and so that they can join in even with contributions in good time.
- 19) Alexandre Pozza congratulated BIREME, in particular for its role in the training of health professionals. He reinforced the need to disseminate products and services more effectively within the Brazilian Ministry of Health.
- 20) The members of the Committee and the participants reached a consensus on the recommendations, which are summarized below and will be sent to the PAHO/WHO Director for consideration:
 - i. Take advantage of increased access to databases to further disseminate BIREME's products and services;
 - ii. Strengthen scientific communication for researchers and communities;
 - iii. Promote the exchange of data, following the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable);
 - iv. Intensify the use of Artificial Intelligence;
 - v. Emphasize the dissemination of products and services of BIREME's technical cooperation, not only for health professionals and decision makers, but also for students in the health area and information science professionals;
 - vi. Disseminate and promote training on access and use of information, and scientific communication;
 - vii. Improve the alignment of BIREME's product and service developments with open science;

- viii. Involve data processing (instead of classic articles and portals) in BIREME's product and service developments;
- ix. Strengthen BIREME's role, representing LA&C in the GoFAIR initiative (reference GoFAIR Brazil Office - [https://www.go-fair.org/go-fair-initiative/go-fair-offices/go-fair-brazil-office /](https://www.go-fair.org/go-fair-initiative/go-fair-offices/go-fair-brazil-office/));
- x. Include scientific integrity training in courses. Not only ethics, but integrity in the investigation, to ensure that they have been done well; besides in the scientific publication;
- xi. Approach the use of artificial intelligence in tools to support how to trust the published information or how to have strategies to guarantee the quality of the information; and
- xii. Enable new course formats in addition to the current modalities.

Other topics

- 21) The members of the SC were thanked for their participation, highlighting the discussions held and the results attained during the meeting. The BIREME team was also acknowledged for their efforts at the Center in the field of scientific information in Health, and especially for holding the Seventh Session of the Scientific Committee.

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Session Adjournment

After the participants shared comments on their appreciation for and experiences at the meeting, the main objectives reached towards the new institutional positioning of the Center were pointed out and the seventh session was then closed.

In witness whereof, the Seventh Session of the Scientific Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME), the Director of BIREME, ex officio Secretary, adjourned the session and signed this final report in its original Spanish language.

Drafted in São Paulo, Brazil, on the thirtieth day of the month of September two thousand twenty-one.

The original signed document will be filed in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Sebastian Garcia Saiso
EIH Director and Acting Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO since NOV/1/21
Scientific Committee

Annexes

Annex A

Agenda

Opening of the Session

Presentations highlighting the technical cooperation program at the Center, its projects, products and services available for the countries of the Region (and outside of it, as well) in the local, national, regional and global spheres.

Debate, questions and answers

Annex B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Work Documents

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Executive Report of BIREME

Annex C

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Alexandre Pozza Urnau Silva, Development, Operation and Financing for Projects, Products and Services of BIREME, Brazil

Amanda Wilson, Information Management, United States of America

Antonio Sánchez Pereyra, Scientific Communication, Mexico

Barend Mons, Information Technology, Netherlands

Cezar Augusto Cabezas, Scientific Research, Peru

Fabio Tarasow, Education, Argentina

Jorge Barreto, Evidence Informed Health, Brazil

PAHO/WHO, HQ Sebastián García Saisó
Director of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health – EIH and
Acting Director of BIREME since NOV/1/2021

BIREME/PAHO/WHO

<i>Diego González Machín</i>	<i>Director and Secretary ex officio until OCT/31/2021</i>
Lilian Calò	Coordinator of Scientific Communication
<i>Carmen Verónica Abdala</i>	<i>Manager of Cooperative Services of Information and Evidence (SCI) Production of Information Sources (PFI)</i>
Juliana Sousa	Supervisor of VHL Instance Monitoring and Projects
Rosemeire Pinto	Supervisor of User Services
Sueli Suga	Supervisor of Referential Information Sources
<i>Renato Murasaki</i>	<i>Manager of Methodology and Information Technologies (MTI) and Administration of Information Sources (AFI) until OCT/31/2021</i>
Marcos Mori	Supervisor of Technical Support Network
<i>Silvia Almeida de Valentin</i>	<i>Manager of Administrative Management and Planning (GA)</i>
Marcia Ymanaka Barretto	Coordinator of Infrastructure of Technologies of Information
Adriano Rehder de Sá	Controllershship and Processes

Annex D

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

BIREME Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information

VHL Virtual Health Library