



Pan American
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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

BIREME

Latin American and Caribbean Center
on Health Sciences Information

**Sixth 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 Sixth Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on December 4th, 2020, 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), December 4th, 2020

FINAL REPORT

OPENING OF THE SESSION

- 1) On December 4th, 2020, the Sixth Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the Center was held online, complying with the consultative functions before the Advisory Committee and the Director of PAHO/WHO. Diego González Machín, Director of BIREME and *ex officio* Secretary of the Scientific Committee led the session.
- 2) Sebastián Garcia Saisó, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH), began the session with welcome words and highlighted the specific objectives of the Ad Hoc session, recognizing the presence of the 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.
- 3) The participation of the specialists of the Scientific Committee were recognized and the importance of holding the meeting within the framework of the development of the Center was highlighted.
- 4) The SC members and BIREME staff present at the session introduced themselves and the work was started.

PRESENTATION

- 5) The Director of BIREME thanked those attending the meeting for their online participation and began the presentation: BIREME: Mission, Priorities, Strategic Actions, and compliance with the recommendations of the V Session of the SC (2019).
- 6) During his presentation Diego González highlighted 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 in the actions carried out from November 2019 to date.

Comments and Recommendations

- 7) Comments and recommendations of Alexandre Pozza Urnau Silva
He stressed, once again, the satisfaction of seeing the development of BIREME and the results obtained. The joint work of Ministry of Health (MoH) and BIREME, for a long time, has yielded visible results and it is very important that it be possible to verify the growth of access to VHL databases. He thanked the BIREME team, which made an alliance with the CGDI (responsible for Knowledge Management in MoH), and with the support that BIREME has provided to the editorial team of the SAA (Secretariat for Administrative Affairs), which has made it possible to

increase the content published by CGDI by 200%. He also commented that SAA Informa (which Dr. Diego showed in his presentation), is an old project and a strategy to disseminate information within the MoH via display in televisions at strategic points. This was also a way of making BIREME's work known internally at the MoH. He also reported that the signature of TA2/TC93 was published, which solves BIREME's costing problem in the next 2 years and that this delay occurred due to changes in the MoH management and due to the pandemic.

Recommendations:

- Increasingly involve SAA in projects with BIREME, as well as with the CGDI, which is closely familiar with the work of the Center, as an important and strategic movement, even emphasizing the recommendation of the last meeting.
- Take advantage of increased access to databases to further disseminate BIREME's products and services.
- Involve BIREME in the working group on combating fake news, which is being created, to support the dissemination of correct and quality information that is a priority issue at the MoH.

8) Comments and recommendations of Amanda Wilson

She commented that it was a wonderful presentation with details of the different areas of work of BIREME, which overlap with many of the priorities and areas of focus of the National Library of Medicine and the NIH, in particular preprints and scientific communication, and the ability to communicate with community members and enhance the ability of the entire population to understand and digest health information.

She also highlighted the initiatives related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the growth in scope and resources, as well as the characteristics of the VHL database and the listed communication channels that allow us to be aware of what is happening in the VHL Network.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen scientific communication for researchers and communities
- Promote the exchange of data, following the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable)
- Intensify the use of Artificial Intelligence.

9) Comments and recommendations of Antonio Sánchez Pereyra

He commented on the number of projects, products and services of BIREME.

He mentioned that it is common to confuse open access and open science, which are different concepts. Acceptance of open science processes by editors and authors is very difficult. He asked what is the experience of BIREME, regarding the acceptance by authors and editors of the opening of editorial processes that in theory seems feasible, but in practice there is resistance. In his opinion, if science councils in LA&C countries do not update their way of evaluating results (publications, impact indices, peer review, etc.), it will be very difficult for open science practices to be really adopted. Publications in major journals continue to be evaluated, based on the Impact Factor, despite all the discussions about how these practices are out of date.

Dr. Diego mentioned that he is working together with the CONICYTs of the countries to include LILACS in the evaluations of the researchers in order to encourage publication in journals in the Region.

Recommendations:

- Emphasize the dissemination of products such as MyVHL, e-BlueInfo and the partnership with undergraduate students in medical and health sciences (such as Felsocem). The same with regard to indexing work. This work, if carried out by international publishers, would have a very high cost, and BIREME offers free of charge.
- Improve the alignment of BIREME's product and service developments with open science.

10) Comments and recommendations of Barend Mons

He commented that many interesting products and services were shown but was surprised and concerned that little was said about data. It is not sharing data in the classic way when there is data from people, but working with components, research objects, among others. He stressed that for BIREME to lead in the next decade, it needs to work with data, rather than articles and the classic portals that it already does wonderfully. He mentioned that he is very involved with FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) data from the beginning and, aligned with what Amanda says. He said FAIR can mean "the machine knows what I mean", that is, refer to everything as a unique identifier. He emphasized that he is available to advise BIREME in whatever is necessary in this area.

Recommendations:

- Involve data processing (instead of classic articles and portals) in BIREME's product and service developments.
- Strengthen the role of BIREME, representing the 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/>)

11) Comments and recommendations of Cezar Augusto Cabezas

He commented that he was surprised by the excellent work BIREME is doing. He mentioned the importance of open science and, in his opinion, BIREME can catalyze this process in the region.

Recommendations:

- Include, in the courses, training on scientific integrity. Not only ethics, but integrity in the research, to ensure that they have been done well; in addition to scientific publication.
- 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.

12) Comments and recommendations of Fabio Tarasow

He congratulated and commented that he considered it incredible to hear what BIREME is doing. She also stated that windows of knowledge are a very interesting product and he was interested in

knowing details of the content curation process and its updating, even if there is a strategy for the dissemination of new content.

Recommendation:

- Develop a strategy for the dissemination of new windows of knowledge content.
- Consider podcasts to inform about new releases or content.
- Enable new course formats in addition to the current modalities.

13) Comments and recommendations of Jorge Barreto

He congratulated BIREME's work and mentioned that, even though he was very close to BIREME, FIOCRUZ and MoH, he did not know many of the products and services presented.

Recommendations:

- Emphasize the dissemination of BIREME through projects with the various departments of the MoH of Brazil (CGDI, DAP, etc).
- Defend and expand open access to information in terms of government strategy.
- Return to having a leadership role on the policies informed by evidence in Brazil, together with EVIPNet Brazil, considering knowledge translation tools - evidence maps - that involve evidence synthesis such as PICS, food and nutrition.
- Promote and lead the initiative to discuss the taxonomy of qualitative studies to support searches by applying the same rationale of quantitative studies to qualitative studies, especially when developing systematic reviews of qualitative studies.

14) The members of the Committee and the participants came to a consensus on the recommendations which are summarized below and will be sent for consideration to the PAHO/WHO Director.

- i. Increasingly involve SAA in projects with BIREME, as well as with the CGDI, which is closely familiar with the work of the Center, as an important and strategic movement, even emphasizing the recommendation of the last meeting.
- ii. Take advantage of increased access to databases to further disseminate BIREME's products and services.
- iii. Involve BIREME in the working group on combating fake news, which is being created, to support the dissemination of correct and quality information that is a priority issue at the MoH.
- iv. Strengthen scientific communication for researchers and communities
- v. Promote the exchange of data, following the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable)
- vi. Intensify the use of Artificial Intelligence.
- vii. Emphasize the dissemination of products such as MyVHL, e-BlueInfo and the partnership with undergraduate students in medical and health sciences (such as Felsocem). The same with regard to indexing work. This work, if carried out by international publishers, would have a very high cost, and BIREME offers free of charge.
- viii. Improve the alignment of BIREME's product and service developments with open science.

- ix. Involve data processing (instead of classic articles and portals) in BIREME's product and service developments.
- x. Strengthen the role of BIREME, representing the 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/>)
- xi. Include, in the courses, training on scientific integrity. Not only ethics, but integrity in the research, to ensure that they have been done well; in addition to scientific publication.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. Develop a strategy for the dissemination of new windows of knowledge content.
- xiv. Consider podcasts to inform about new releases or content.
- xv. Enable new course formats in addition to the current modalities.
- xvi. Emphasize the dissemination of BIREME through projects with the various departments of the MoH of Brazil (CGDI, DAP, etc).
- xvii. Defend and expand open access to information in terms of government strategy.
- xviii. Return to having a leadership role on the policies informed by evidence in Brazil, together with EVIPNet Brazil, considering knowledge translation tools - evidence maps - that involve evidence synthesis such as PICS, food and nutrition.
- xix. Promote and lead the initiative to discuss the taxonomy of qualitative studies to support searches by applying the same rationale of quantitative studies to qualitative studies, especially when developing systematic reviews of qualitative studies.

Other topics

- 15) 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 Sixth 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 sixth session was then closed.

In witness whereof, the Sixth 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 fourth day of the month of December two thousand twenty.

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

Diego González Machín
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO
ex officio Secretary of the sixth session of the BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Scientific Committee

Annexes

Annex A

Agenda

Opening of the Session

Presentation by the *ex officio* Secretary who highlighted 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

BIREME/PAHO/WHO

<i>Diego González Machín</i>	<i>Director and Secretary ex officio</i>
Lilian Calò	Coordinator of Scientific Communication
<i>Carmen Verónica Abdala</i>	<i>Manager of Cooperative Services of Information and Evidence (SCI)</i>
	<i>Production of Information Sources (PFI)</i>
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</i>
	<i>Administration of Information Sources (AFI)</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