



Pan American
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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

BIREME

Latin American and Caribbean Center
on Health Sciences Information

**Eighth 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 Eighth Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on 8th September 2022, 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 24 and 25 October 2019 for a three-year mandate (2020-2022). They are experts from 6 (six) PAHO/WHO Member States: Argentina, Brazil, México, Netherlands, Peru and United States of America.

FINAL REPORT

São Paulo, Brazil, 8 September, 2022

FINAL REPORT

OPENING OF THE SESSION

- 1) On September 8, 2022, the VIII 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 was led by Sebastián Garcia Saiso, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH) and Acting Director of BIREME on the occasion, and ex officio Secretary of the Committee.
- 2) The members of the SC and the BIREME participants introduced themselves and the work was started
- 3) Sebastián Garcia Saisó opened the session with words of welcome and highlighted the specific objectives of the session, acknowledging the participation 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.
- 4) The 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.

PRESENTATION

- 5) The Acting Director of BIREME thanked the online participation of those attending the meeting and began the presentation: BIREME: Mission, Priorities, Strategic Actions and compliance with the recommendations of the VII SC (2021).
- 6) The presentation was structured around four major themes:
 - Management, Institutionalality, Work Plan 2022-2023
 - Advances in Scientific Communication
 - Services and Information Products
 - Methodologies and Information Technologies
- 7) During his presentation, Sebastián Garcia highlighted the Center's technical cooperation program, 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 September 2021 to date, highlighting the priorities and strategic actions of BIREME.

- 8) In the topic “Management, Institutional, Work Plan 2022-2023”, the Biennial Work Plan 2022-2023 (BWP 22-23), financial sustainability and aspects of the general operation of BIREME were highlighted. He highlighted how the Center could expand the funding sources of its BWP also to motivate the reflection of the members and the key elements for sustainable development. He clarified that all of BIREME's work is aligned with and contributes to the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and the PAHO/WHO Technical Cooperation Work Plan. In addition, he stressed that the new BIREME institutional is still being implemented, pending the formalization of its Headquarters Agreement in Brazil. Moreover, the formation 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 expressed in the BIREME Statute.
- 9) In "Advances in Scientific Communication", the scientific communication courses and scientific communication actions were highlighted (VHL Scientific Communication, situation of indexing of LA&C journals in the databases, indexing criteria, face-to-face scientific communication courses which can be done in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French) and the Center's institutional communication channels were also presented (institutional website, PAHO Intranet, BIREME Newsletter, social networks, and internal newsletter PSI and FiquePorDentro) and updating dynamics.
- 10) In the “Information Services and Products” area, information management and knowledge management actions were presented, aiming for decision-making with a focus on networking, activities and initiatives in 2022, aligned with the recommendations of the VII SC. He highlighted the Windows of Knowledge that continue to be updated and new ones that were launched in 2022. He also highlighted the evidence maps developed in conjunction with countries of the Region.
- 11) Within the theme "Methodologies and Information Technologies", the advances in the area were presented, including database management and terminology in health, taking into account the recommendations of the VII SC. He shared data on increased visibility and access to scientific and technical health information available in the Virtual Health Library (VHL). He highlighted the e-BlueInfo product, advances in initiatives with the WHO and open data developments and impact measurement.

Comments and Recommendations

- 12) The discussions, comments and recommendations issued, facilitated 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) 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. Establish a collaborative network to disseminate BIREME initiatives on evidence-based policies (BIGG, Evid@Easy, PIE etc.) in other forums in addition to the networks in which the Center already participates;
- ii. To reach new audiences, create educational formats or new informative experiences, be proactive and inform them of something new, such as a playful experience, a game, in the midst of BIREME's formal environment and in the midst of so much information;
- iii. Use new methodologies, such as gamification to teach traditional topics, access and use of health information and scientific communication. In addition, to have younger audiences on social networks to attract new users for BIREME's P/S and also to promote virtual meetings on topics such as symposiums on research, scientific publication, etc.
- iv. Make known about BIREME products and services and the new tools that are developed (e-BlueInfo, DeCS/MeSH Finder, EVID@Easy, for example) for its institutional partners
- v. Increase spaces for the promotion of information products and services developed by BIREME, in the countries and in the Region, with more active participation of public and private health institutions, as well as academic entities. Likewise, in the Windows of Knowledge, if it could be included - in the different areas - about the information on what to do and be prepared for the next pandemics.

Other topics

14) 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 Eighth 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 Eighth Session of the Scientific Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME), the Acting 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 eighth day of the month of September two thousand twenty-two.

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 from 1/NOV/21 until 17/OCT/22
ex officio Secretary, 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

César Augusto Cabezas, Scientific Research, Peru

Fabio Tarasow, Education, Argentina

Jorge Barreto, Evidence Informed Health, Brazil

PAHO/WHO, HQ Sebastián Garcia Saisó
Director of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health – EIH and
Acting Director of BIREME from 1/NOV/2021 until 17/OCT/2022

BIREME/PAHO/WHO

<i>Sebastián Garcia Saisó</i>	<i>Acting Director and Secretary ex officio</i>
<i>Lilian Calò</i>	<i>Coordinator of Scientific Communication</i>
<i>Carmen Verônica Abdala</i>	<i>Manager of Cooperative Services of Information and Evidence (SCI)</i>
	<i>Production of Information Sources (PFI)</i>
<i>Juliana Sousa</i>	<i>Supervisor of VHL Instance Monitoring and Projects</i>
<i>Rosemeire Pinto</i>	<i>Supervisor of User Services</i>
<i>Sueli Suga</i>	<i>Supervisor of Referential Information Sources</i>
<i>Sandra Janostiac</i>	<i>Manager of Methodology and Information Technologies (MTI) and</i>
	<i>Administration of Information Sources (AFI)</i>
<i>Marcos Mori</i>	<i>Supervisor of Technical Support Network</i>
<i>Silvia Almeida de Valentin</i>	<i>Manager of Administrative Management and Planning (GA)</i>
<i>Marcia Ymanaka Barretto</i>	<i>Coordinator of Infrastructure of Technologies of Information</i>
<i>Adriano Rehder de Sá</i>	<i>Controllership and Processes</i>

Annex D

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

BIREME	Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information
VHL	Virtual Health Library
BIGG	International database of GRADE guides
DeCS/Mesh	Health Sciences Descriptors
e-BlueInfo	APP with information for health professionals
Evid@Easy	Guided evidence search
PIE	Evidence-informed policy