



Tenth Session of the Scientific Committee 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 Tenth (X) Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO) was held online, on 27th August 2024, to comply with Resolution 5 of the 49th Directing Council of PAHO/WHO (CD49.R5), which approved the Statute of BIREME, effective since 2010.

The current members of the SC were indicated by the members of the XII Session of BIREME Advisory Committee (AC) held on August 23, 2023. Their participation will be for a three-year term (2024-2026). Currently they are experts from five (5) PAHO/WHO Member States: Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and the United States of America. There is one expert from Netherlands that will be leaving in 2024.

MINUTES

São Paulo, Brazil, August 27, 2024

MINUTES

Opening Session

- 1) On August 27, 2024, the Tenth Session of BIREME's Scientific Committee (SC) was held online, the SC exercises consultative functions before the Advisory Committee and the Director of PAHO/WHO. The Session was led by João Paulo Souza, Director of BIREME and Secretary *ex-officio*, assisted by BIREME's personnel as Secretariat.
- 2) Sebastián Garcia Saiso, Director of the Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health (EIH) began with words of welcome, recognizing the participation of the SC members, emphasizing the importance of the BIREME SC, and the recommendations from its members for the continued sustainability of the Center.
- 3) The participation of the SC members was thanked and the importance of holding the session within the framework of the institutional development of the Center was highlighted and the Agenda for the X Session was presented.
- 4) The SC members and BIREME personnel participating in the session introduced themselves and the work began.

Regulation Matters

- 5) The session did not have a directing panel, therefore the Director of BIREME led the session as Secretary *ex-officio*.

Presentation and Comments

- 6) The Director of BIREME presented the center's progress within its work plan, guided by the BIREME Strategy 2023-2025, which aligns with PAHO's strategic objectives and prioritizes digital transformation, innovation, and the development of user-centered information products. Key topics included enhancing decision-making capacities in health, utilizing advanced technologies, and fostering technical cooperation with countries. The presentation also focused on BIREME's research and development efforts on digital frontiers and their integration into public health information products.
- 7) Furthermore, the presentation highlighted BIREME's role in developing and maintaining critical public health information products and services, such as the Virtual Health Library (VHL) and Latin American and Caribbean Literature (LILACS), and its commitment to operational and financial sustainability through agile methodologies and fundraising efforts.

- 8) Following the presentation, the Scientific Committee engaged in discussions, providing key messages and recommendations, which are summarized in **Box 1**.

Box 1: Key messages and recommendations from BIREME Scientific Committee.

- i. BIREME Scientific Committee commends the Secretariat and technical teams for their outstanding achievements since the last session of the Scientific Committee.
- ii. The Committee recommends the continued implementation of BIREME’s Strategy 2023-2025 throughout the 2024-2025 Biennium Work Plan (BWP24-25).
- iii. The Committee suggests prioritizing integrating large language models (LLMs) and related technologies into public health information products as the primary area of interest for research and development at BIREME. Other areas of interest include the identification of geospatial clusters of trending topics, coupled with predictive search and narrative synthesis of search results, and the extensive use of images to create an immersive user experience.
- iv. The Committee cautions against excessive personalization of information products to mitigate the risk of undue influence on individual scientific interests.

- 9) The session concluded with closing remarks from the EIH Director, who thanked for the participation of the expert members, highlighting the strategic discussions held and the results achieved at the session, as well as the BIREME team for their performance at the Center in area of scientific information on Health and especially in the realization of the Tenth Session of the Scientific Committee.

Session Closure

After the participants shared comments on their appreciation for the meeting, the main objectives reached towards the new institutional positioning of the Center were pointed out.

In witness whereof, the Tenth session of the Scientific Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME) was ended, the Director of BIREME and *ex officio* Secretary, signed this final report.

Held online on the twenty-seventh of the month of August of the year two thousand and twenty-four.

The original signed document will be deposited in the files of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

João Paulo Souza
Director of BIREME/PAHO/WHO
Ex-officio Secretary of the tenth session of the
Scientific Committee of BIREME/PAHO/WHO

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Amanda Wilson	Information Management, United States of America
Fabio Tarasow	Education, Argentina
Jorge Barreto	Evidence Informed Health, Brazil
Rodolfo Pacagnella	Artificial Intelligence applied to Health, Brazil

PAHO/WHO

Sebastián García Saisó, Director of EIH

BIREME/PAHO/WHO

João Paulo Souza, Director and Secretary *ex-officio*
Technical and administrative team, Secretariat

DOCUMENTS

The documents for the X Session of the SC are available on the [Governance Committees Portal of BIREME](#), that are:

1. Agenda of the Session ([link](#))
2. Summary Executive Report ([link](#))
3. Executive Report ([link](#))
4. Strategy 2023-2025 ([link](#))
5. News Published in BIREME Bulletin ([link](#))