

Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit



February 2007

Unit Team

Dr. Jorge Rodriguez

Unit Chief
(Washington, DC, USA)
rodrigio@paho.org

Dr. Maristela Monteiro

Regional Adviser on Alcohol and
Substance Abuse
(Washington, DC, USA)
monteirm@paho.org

Dr. Hugo Cohen

Sub-regional Adviser on Mental
Health for South America (Buenos
Aires, Argentina)
cohenh@arg.ops-oms.org

Dr. Victor Aparicio

Sub-regional Adviser on Mental
Health for Mexico, Central
America, and the Hispanic
Caribbean
(Panamá, Panamá)
apariciv@pan.ops-oms.org

Dr. Armando Vásquez

Regional Adviser on Rehabilitation
(Santiago, Chile)
vasqueza@chi.ops-oms.org

Mr. Javier Vásquez

Human Rights Specialist
Legal Affairs Area / Technology
and Health Services Delivery Area
(Washington, DC, USA)
vasquezj@paho.org

**Prof. M. Florencia Di Masi
Alconada - Consultant -**

Mental Health, Alcohol and
Substance Abuse
(Washington, DC, USA)
dimasima@paho.org

Secretariat:

Mrs. Amalia Paredes

paredama@paho.org

Mrs. Martha Koev

koevmart@paho.org

The Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is issued with the purpose of informing about important advances, news and publications in the areas of mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation and the protection of human rights within this context. In particular, the Bulletin focuses on those activities related to the technical assistance provided by PAHO/WHO to different actors in the Region. We hope it will become a useful tool for all those working in this important field of public health all over the Americas.

The Unit Team

II Latin American Award in Health and Communication, 2006 “Alcohol Consumption, its Social and Health Consequences and Public Policies”

Among a total of 57 news articles submitted by journalists from 11 Latin American countries, the three winning works corresponded to reporters from Mexico, Colombia and Uruguay.

The *First Prize* was awarded to Patricia Peña, editor and founder of “*Público Milenio*”, from Mexico, for her article, “*When alcohol becomes a tradition*”, -“*Cuando el alcohol se hace tradición*”, which tells us about the impact of alcohol consumption on Sierra Tarahumara. In her story, the journalist visits indigenous communities, collects anthropological information and describes how liquor leads to social violence and speaks about the consequences of acculturation.

The *Second Prize* was given to “*A bartender State is disease and cure*” - (“*Un Estado cantinero es enfermedad y remedio*”), by Javier Nicolás Restrepo, a reporter from “*El Mundo*”, -a newspaper from Medellín, Colombia-, who is specialized in investigative journalism. His work describes the paradox of a State which produces liquor, profits from its sales and, at the same time, develops policies to prevent its consumption. The author reveals how double standards are deeply rooted in the whole region.

The *Third Prize* went to “*Scourge with culprits*”, - (“*Flagelo con culpables*”), by Magdalena Herrera, a journalist from “*El País*”, a newspaper from Montevideo, Uruguay, who is also the editor of its Sunday Supplement. This is a rigorous investigation, which deals with the problem of alcohol consumption in Uruguay, and is not just limited to the collection of distant information but goes deep to denounce and name, those responsible for it.

From PAHO, we would like to thank all the people who participated in the discussions about “*Alcohol and Media Coverage*” and we want to express our commitment to continue supporting the work done by these excellent media representatives who wish to join us in our efforts to reduce the harms of alcohol consumption in the Region. We also want to congratulate the three winners on their participation and dedication. You can find the three stories on: <http://www.comminit.com/la/redsalud/index.html>

Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit

Dr María Elena Medina Mora wins the “Woman of the Year 2006” Award for her professional achievements in the field of Mental Health

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO, México.- The 2006 “Woman of the Year” Award acknowledges Dr María Elena Medina Mora’s academic and professional experience and achievements in the field of addictions and mental health.

“Undoubtedly, universal prevention has to be reinforced, but more should be invested in prevention among vulnerable groups, children who live with an alcoholic parent, in homes where there are mental health problems or who have been victims of violence in their childhood”, declared the prize winner.

At present, María Elena Medina Mora is Director of Epidemiological and Psychosocial Research at the National Institute of Psychiatry Ramón de la Fuente (PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center). She is also a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, of the National Academy of Medicine and of the National Bar of Psychologists.

The “Woman of the Year” Award was established in 1960 to recognize women’s personal and professional accomplishments at social, scientific and cultural levels.
<http://www.comunicacion.amc.edu.mx/amc-en-medios/entregan-premio-mujer-de-ano-2006/>



Presentation of THE STATE OF THE WORLD’S CHILDREN 2007 Report

Women and Children: The Double Dividend of Gender Equality

The State of the World’s Children 2007 examines the discrimination and disempowerment women face throughout their lives – and outlines what must be done to eliminate gender discrimination and empower women and girls. It looks at the status of women today, discusses how gender equality will move all the Millennium Development Goals forward, and shows how investment in women’s rights will ultimately produce a double dividend: advancing the rights of both women and children.

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/report/report.php>



WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

October 10th, “World Mental Health Day”: the Transcultural Approach

The World Federation for Mental Health has published the motto for the 2007 World Mental Health Day’s celebration, which is based on the belief that understanding a person within his or her cultural context is essential to quality mental health care:

“Transcultural Mental Health in a Changing World: Building a Global Response”



Conferences and other Activities:

- -WPA Regional Meeting, Nairobi, Kenia, March 21-23, 2007, <http://www.wpa2007nairobi.com/>
- -WPA Co-sponsored Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 12-14, 2007, *Third Iberoamerican Congress on Addictive Disorders*, cita2007@fibertel.com.ar
- -WPA Regional Meeting, Seoul, Korea, April 18-21, 2007, <http://www.wpa2007seoul.org>
- -WPA Co-sponsored Conference, La Habana, Cuba, June 18-22, 2007, VI Simposio Internacional “Aspectos Biológicos y Farmacoterapéuticos de los Trastornos Mentales”, ccunp@infomed.sld.cu ...more
- -WPA Co-sponsored Conference, Medellin, Colombia, July 26-29, 2007, Congreso Latinoamericano de Adicciones: “Adicciones, un Desafío a la Mente”, congresoalad2007@gmail.com
- -WPA Co-sponsored Conference - Barcelona, Spain, May 3-4, 2007, II Simposio de Psiquiatría Transcultural: Salud Mental en el Paciente de América Andina, mcasas@vhebron.net

