



**Organización  
Panamericana  
de la Salud**

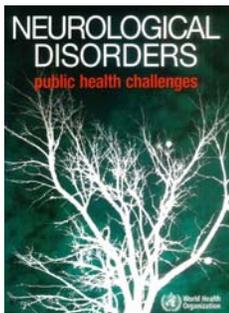
Oficina Regional de la  
Organización Mundial de la Salud

**MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES  
AND  
REHABILITATION  
BULLETIN**

**MARCH 2008**

## **Neurological Disorders: public health challenges**

The Neurological Disorders: public health challenges was published by WHO in 2006, which has recently been translated into Spanish by PAHO



This book describe and discusses the increasing global public health importance of common neurological disorders such as dementia, epilepsy, headache disorders, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and other nervous system ailments. The document provides the public health perspective for these disorders and presents fresh and updated estimates and predictions of global burden borne by them.

The future burden of neurological diseases can become an uncontrollable problem and could come to constitute one of the largest threats to global public health according to experts in the WHO/PAHO. Neurological disorders such as epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and MS and other nervous system ailments constitute over 6 % of the overall burden of disease in the world.

In Latin America the book is being distributed through the Regional Mental Health and Rehabilitation project. It is hoped this book will serve as theoretical support, in order to improve the health services of neurological disorders. Among the projections by the Mental Health Project of PAHO are plans to support Member States in the intervention and effective development of solutions directed at neurological disorders, especially epilepsy.

## **Mental Health in the portal of InFoCom Central America and Dominican Republic**

InfoCom is the information system and "communicating for health" in Central America and the Dominican Republic that was created in the context of the "Special Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic" (RESSCAD), in 1995. Actually, the representative of PAHO in Panama has been in charge of developing the content of this portal. Within the subject of the portal is that of mental health, where there is a collection of information and guidelines as well as useful instruments for decision-making in the framework of mental health programs of the two countries involved.



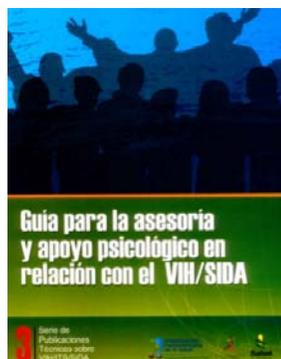
**Mental Health in the Americas**  
[A Change of Mentality >>](#)  
Mental Health Information on PAHO/  
WHO Webpage



**World Fellowship for  
schizophrenia and  
allied disorders**  
(WFSAD)  
<http://espanol.world-schizophrenia.org/>  
alianza/

## Guidelines for advisory services and psychological support with regard to HIV/AIDS

### Panama



The Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) have published this guide on a series of technical publications guidelines on and for HIV/STI/AIDS), that is directed at health professionals and members of organizations that support people with HIV/AIDS. This is done for the purpose of boosting the ability to advise the general population and those that are afflicted with HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, it has specific guidelines for the most vulnerable populations.

## UN Commission Renews Mandate for Special Rapporteur and Agrees on Mainstreaming Disability in Development

The 46th session of the Commission for Social Development was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The theme this year was "Promoting Full Employment and Decent Work for All." The Commission also discussed mainstreaming disability in the development agenda as an emerging issue on the Commission's agenda. The Commission agreed on two resolutions related to disabilities.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Disability, Sheikha Hessa Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, of Qatar, presented her annual report to the Commission on 8 February, highlighting her findings of a global survey of measures taken by Governments in support of the Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities. The Special Rapporteur, who has fulfilled this role since 2002, also reported on her activities in support of the new Convention.

The Commission adopted a consensus text that renews the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Disability until 2011. The Special Rapporteur will continue to promote the equalization of opportunities by, for, and with persons with disabilities, and protect their human rights in support of the Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities. A second resolution, entitled "Mainstreaming Disability in the Development Agenda," was also adopted by the Commission, recognizing that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without mainstreaming disability into the development agenda, and requesting the UN Secretariat to focus on mainstreaming in its reporting on disability for the next General Assembly.

More information on the Commission, its documents and resolutions can be found at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>.

### Coming EVENTS

- Panamerican Conference on Infant Juvenile Mental Health. WPA & Cuban Society of Psychiatry. Havana, Cuba, March 24-28, 2008. <http://www.cpalco.com>
- Argentine Mental Health Association: Modernity, Technology and Contemporary Symptoms. Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 27-29, 2008. [www.aasaludmental.org](http://www.aasaludmental.org)
- WPA Thematic Conference on Depression and Relevant Psychiatric Condition in Primary Care, Granada, Spain, June 19-21, 2008. [www.wpa2008granada.org](http://www.wpa2008granada.org)
- IX International Congress on Traumatic Stress, Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 25-27, 2008. [www.psicotrauma.org.ar](http://www.psicotrauma.org.ar)
- XXV Congress APAL 2008, Isla Margarita. Venezuela, November 18- 22, 2008. [www.apal2008.org](http://www.apal2008.org)