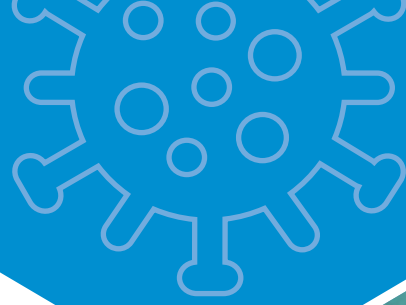


Research
Education
Technical
Cooperation



INSTITUTIONAL YEARBOOK 2020



INDEX

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

3. About Us

4. Mission and Institutional Objectives

5. Staff

2020 OVERVIEW

8. Metrics: 2020 in figures

10. Editorial

12. Some thoughts about the pandemic:

14. Highlights

19. Project Meetings

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION: DEPARTMENTS, CENTERS AND UNITS

20. Department of Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics

22. IECS-Argentine Cochrane Center

24. Department of Mother and Child Health Research

26. Department of Research on Chronic Diseases

28. Center for Research and Implementation in Palliative Care (CII-CP)

30. Department of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety

32. Center for Implementation and Innovation in Health Policies

34. Qualitative Research on Health Unit

36. Statistics, Data Management and Information Systems Unit

38. Department of Education

42. Communication Unit

44. Operations Management and Support Unit

46. PUBLICATIONS

54. VALUABLE RESOURCES

55. Interview to Dr. Vilma Irazola

58. FUNDING

ABOUT US



IECS
INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL
EFFECTIVENESS AND HEALTH POLICY

We are an independent academic institution affiliated to the
University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine,
dedicated since 2002 to:

Research

Education

Technical cooperation

It houses an executive unit of the
CONICET (Argentine National Scientific
and Technical Research Council),
a Cochrane Center and one Collaborating



Centro Colaborador de la OMS/OPS en
Evaluación de Tecnologías de la Salud

ABOUT US

MISSION

To contribute with improving overall health, creating and promoting the use of the best scientific evidence.



IECS
INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL
EFFECTIVENESS AND HEALTH POLICY

RESEARCH

Our projects include clinical, epidemiological research and studies applied to healthcare policies and services, health technology assessments and economic evaluations, systematic reviews, qualitative studies, questionnaire and intervention validation to improve medical care quality and patient's safety. Our aim is to make a contribution that allows re-formulating the national, regional and global research agenda through projects that reflect the priorities and health needs of those who live in low and middle-income countries.

EDUCATION

We provide training in clinical and health research, management and assessment of health programs and policies. Our academic offer includes the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine Master's Degree in Clinical Effectiveness, and different post-graduate courses and seminars in the following areas: healthcare quality and patient's safety, advanced research methods and applied statistics; health technology assessments and economic evaluations; systematic reviews and meta-analysis; mother and child health and nursing.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Through a close collaboration with public agencies, non-governmental organizations and private institutions, we develop strategies that allow improving accessibility and quality of care so as to promote the implementation of effective evidence-based policies and interventions.

STAFF BOARD

DR. EZEQUIEL GARCÍA ELORRIO

Director of Administration and Director of the Department of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety

DR. FERNANDO RUBINSTEIN

Director of the Department of Education

DR. VILMA IRAZOLA

Director of the Department of Research on Chronic Diseases and Coordinator of the Center of Excellence in Cardiovascular Health for South America in the Southern Cone (CESCAS)

DR. ANDRÉS PICHON-RIVIERE

IECS and Department of Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics Executive Director

DR. ADOLFO RUBINSTEIN

Director of the Center for Implementation and Innovation in Health Policies (CIIPS)

DR. MABEL BERRUETA

Coordinator of the Statistics, Data Management and Information Systems Unit and Coordinator of the Department of Mother and Child Health Research

BACHELOR GRISEL JORDÁN

Director of the Operations Management and Support Unit

DR. FEDERICO AUGUSTOVSKI

Director of the Department of Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics



STAFF COORDINATION

DR. AGUSTÍN CIAPPONI

Director of the Cochrane Argentine
Center Coordinator of the IECS-
Cochrane Argentine Center



DR. ANDREA ALCARAZ

Coordinator
of Health Technology
Assessment



DR. VERÓNICA DUSSEL

Coordinator of the Center for Research
and Implementation
in Palliative Care (CII-CP)



BACHELOR ALFREDO PALACIOS

Coordinator of Health
Economics



DR. VIVIANA RODRÍGUEZ

Coordinator of the Department of
Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety



BACHELOR MARÍA BELIZÁN

Coordinator of the Qualitative
Research on Health Unit



DR. ARIEL BARDACH

Director of the Center for Research on
Epidemiology and Public Health (CIESP). IECS-
Cochrane Argentine Center and Department
of Health Technology Assessment and Health
Economics Senior Researcher



BACHELOR CINTIA CEJAS

Coordinator of the Center for
Implementation and Innovation
in Health Policies (CIIPS)



DR. SEBASTIÁN GARCÍA MARTÍ

Coordinator of the Department of
Health Technology Assessment and
Health Economics



BACHELOR MARIANA COMOLLI

Coordinator of the
Communication Unit



COORDINATOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE



BACHELOR
LUCIANA
PELLE

COORDINATOR OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT UNIT



CLAUDIA
ARIZAGA

> PRESIDENT



DR. JOSÉ BELIZÁN

President of IECS
and Department
of Mother and
Child Health
Research Senior
Researcher.

STAFF

RESEARCHERS

Andrea Beratarrechea
Analía Nejamis
Ayelén Toscani
Carolina Prado
Darío Balán
Daniela Moyano
Eduardo Bergel
Facundo Jorro Barón
Gabriela Cormick
Karen Klein
Inés Suárez Anzorena
Javier Roberti
Juan Pedro Alonso
Juan Martín González
Luz Gibbons
Lucas González
Lucas Perelli
Luciano Uzal

Laura Gutiérrez
María Laura Requena
María Luisa Cafferata
Manuel Donato
Natalia Elorriaga
Natalia Espinola
Pablo Gulayín
Natalí Ini
Paula Vázquez
Rosana Poggio
Roberto Klappenbach
Sacha Virgilio
Simón Fernández Nieves
Verónica Alfie
Verónica Pingray
Verónica Sanguine
Victoria Sáenz
Samanta Straminsky

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Ana Cavallo
María Victoria López
Fernando Argento

Carlos Rojas
Diana Pinto
Milagros García Díaz

INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNICATION

Natalí Ini

LIBRARY

Daniel Comandé
Mónica Soria

PEDAGOGIC COUNSELING

Adriana Sznajder

IT SUPPORT

Romina Melgarejo (Coordinación)
Nicolás Hermida
Rodrigo Alonso

MARKETING

Marianela Conde (Coordinación)
Magalí Botta
Martina Rochi

SEARCH FOR FUNDING

Gilda Follietti

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE ANALYSTS AND ASSISTANTS

Emilio Allemandi
Richard del Padre
Romina Peralta
Ana Redes

OPERATIONS ANALYSTS AND ASSISTANTS

Nancy Albornoz
Marina Bonelli
Sol Franco
María Harmitton Oliveto
Cecilia Hernández
Samanta Padra
Gabriela Rodríguez
María Eugenia Serres
Joaquín Uzzo

DATA MANAGEMENT ANALYSTS AND ASSISTANTS

Lisandro Di Meo
Rocío Rodríguez
Candela Stella

MAINTENANCE

Claudia Gallardo
Olga Ojeda

2020 in figures I

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

73

ARTICLES IN
JOURNALS INDEXED IN
MEDLINE

71

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY
ASSESSMENTS

2

COCHRANE
REVIEWS,
3 PROTOCOLS
AND 61 COCHRANE
ANSWERS

EDUCATION

+1,400

PROFESSIONALS
HAVE CHOSEN
OUR COURSES

+2,500

PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED
IN OUR WEBINARS



2020 in figures II

RESEARCH

WE WORKED WITH
MORE THAN

30

COUNTRIES

WE APPLIED FOR

112

RESEARCH
GRANTS

PROMOTION

370

TIMES IN
COMMUNICATION MEDIA



A Turning Point that Changed Us as Institution



Dr. Andrés Pichon-Riviere
Executive Director of IECS

"What is right when we face an unprecedented situation from all perspectives? How to react when we are overwhelmed by huge amounts of information and there is no way we can absorb and analyze all of it? How can we live in a world where **deep uncertainty** is not an exception, but the rule?"

The questions asked by Israeli historian Yuval Nohal Harari in his book "21 Lessons for the 21st Century" in 2018, could have perfectly applied to the **pandemic** which broke out two years later: a world turning point, which revealed how vulnerable we are, but which also forced us to recover and face the crisis with determination.

The pandemic affected us and the world's population alike; it brought uncertainty, confusion and concern about our loved ones. But it also meant facing two additional significant challenges. The first one: How to continue in this new scenario with the projects the IECS had undertaken before COVID-19. **None of the public health problems IECS had been focusing on early that year ceased to exist because of the pandemic.**

Maternal health, hospital quality of care, chronic diseases, Chagas disease, child obesity or smoking,

just to mention a few, would continue being top priority problems during and after COVID-19.

The second challenge was **how to contribute to the efforts the country and the world were going to undertake to control the pandemic and reduce its harm**; a huge work to adapt the institution to a fast paced scenario demanding answers in days or hours, which would otherwise have required months or years. During all 2020, IECS participated in a variety of projects, such as assessment of vaccines and therapeutic interventions for COVID-19, development of mathematical models to understand the progress of the pandemic and help the health systems to be ready, and reports to help decision-makers understand which interventions are really useful. Many of these undertakings can be accessed in a website (www.iecs.org.ar/covid) specifically created to provide free access to **reliable information in the midst of** overwhelming amounts of data. Since our departments, units and centers, were already experienced in remote exchange with collaborators and colleagues from Argentina and other countries, in few weeks, we were able to adapt all the operations to this new method of work and to continue working on **110 research**

continued
↓

projects, education and technical cooperation in 30 countries, of which 64 were started in 2020.

One hundred and twelve submissions (30 more than in 2019) were presented, and over 1,400 professionals from 16 countries, registered in our post-graduate courses. Also, we prepared 73 publications for journals indexed in PubMed.

COVID-19 changed IECS as an institution and we will never be the same after this. To face this situation, which brought about huge operational challenges, we were extremely quick to adapt and resist.

In one of the most difficult years for the human kind in recent history, the 85 individuals who work at IECS **redoubled our commitment to public health and the use of the best evidence.** I feel extremely proud of this **collective effort.**

Harari says that **to survive and flourish in such a world, you will need a lot of mental flexibility** and great reserves of emotional balance. I would also add that we would also need **passion** for what we do, **integrity, creativity, accuracy and the belief** that we can contribute to **build a better country and world.**

“In one of the most difficult years for the human kind in recent history, the 85 individuals who work at IECS redoubled our commitment to public health and the use of the best evidence. I feel extremely proud of this collective effort.”

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

“It is of the utmost importance for the health system and countries to get ready for future pandemics and catastrophes in a more systematic and methodic way. One year ago, we could have not imagined this scenario, not even in our worst nightmares”

Adolfo Rubinstein
([See more here](#))

IN THIS VERY SPECIAL YEAR, THESE ARE SOME OF THE COMMENTS OF OUR RESEARCHERS ABOUT COVID-19, TAKEN FROM OUR EDITORIALS, WEBINARS, MEDIA STATEMENTS AND ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

“We feel this is a time when it is absolutely necessary to reinforce our commitment as researchers and professionals who work in public health to promote the use of better evidence.”

Andrés Pichon-Riviere
([See more here](#))

“Maybe some may ask if the State should invest in Science at a time we are experiencing one of the most serious socio-economic crisis. However, the achievements of Argentine Science during this pandemic, explain, without a doubt, the benefits of investing.”

Agustín Ciapponi
([See more here](#))

“It is time to implement some of the knowledge we learnt from quality improvement to other hospital practice areas, such as reducing infections by multi-resistant organisms.”

Ezequiel García Elorrio
([See more here](#))

“The way the Argentine scientific community responded to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, required that several specialties joined to fight this threat.”

José Belizán, Ariel Bardach, Gabriela Cormick y Vilma Irazola
([See more here](#))

“The main challenge in technology assessment during pandemic has been to differentiate a true signal (if a drug or facemask work) in a world full of opinions and uncertainty, where research that progressively appeared did not have the quality we are used to.”

Dr. Federico Augustovski
([See more here](#))

“This context required to incorporate other study designs and new sources of information to our health technology assessments.”

Dra. Andrea Alcaraz
([See more here](#))

WEBINARS

**DURING 2020,
WE ORGANIZED WEBINARS
ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 2,520 PEOPLE
FROM ARGENTINA AND OTHER LATIN
AMERICAN COUNTRIES.
COVID-19 WAS THE LEADING ACTOR,
BUT THERE WAS ALSO TIME TO DISCUSS
WHAT HAPPENS WITH ACCESS TO
HIGH-PRICE DRUGS AND WITH
CONSUMPTION OF SOFT DRINKS
WITH ADDED
SUGAR.**



COVID-19: How do we surf the second wave? A comprehensive look from the perspective of public policies.
[Click here](#)



Patient safety in COVID-19 times: evidence-based recommendations.
[Click here](#)



What we can and cannot see in soft drinks with added sugar.
[Click here](#)



Decision making and prioritizing health resources. What changes has COVID-19 imposed, which may change the rules of the game in the next few years?
[Click here](#)



COVID-19: Challenges for the Argentinean health system and society.
[Click here](#)



COVID-19: A leap towards digital transformation in health.
[Click here](#)



COVID-19: How to determine what interventions work? A look into scientific evidence from the health technology assessment perspective.
[See Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3](#)



Women leadership in health: What challenges does the pandemic pose?
[Click here](#)



How do we improve access to high-price drugs taking the sustainability of the health system into account?
[Click here](#)

ALL THESE
WEBINARS WERE
LIVE STREAMED
IN OUR SOCIAL
MEDIA.





COVID-19: we launched a site with reliable information

In response to the overwhelming amount of information about the pandemic generated daily, IECS launched <https://www.iecs.org.ar/covid>, which gathers all our health technology assessment (HTA) documents about COVID-19-related interventions and a group of links to access organizations and institutions, offering reliable information for decision-making.

QUALITY FORUMS AND CONGRESSES

As every year, the IECS' Department of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety organized training sessions, experience exchange activities and project presentations. The XI National Conference and the I Rio de la Plata Conference of the Latin American Collaborative Forum in Quality and Patient Safety held in October under the motto "people at the core of our efforts" summoned speakers from the region, Spain, United States and other countries and gathered almost 500 participants via Zoom. Also, five regional

forums were organized in the in all the country and five virtual meetings focused on quality management in COVID-19 were held.



During quarantine

Because of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, our working, administrative, research, education and IT teams had to work from home throughout 2020. Technology allowed us to continue working on our projects and education proposals remotely, but always maintaining our commitment and motivation, in many cases, by the need to provide practical answers to the health systems to speed up return to normality.

ACTIVE VACCINE SURVEILLANCE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

Although pregnant women are considered a population at risk for COVID-19 complications, this population was not included in most Phase 3 clinical trials testing different vaccines. In addition to continue evaluating that, when they get vaccinated, there would be information systems in place to collect perinatal outcomes in low and middle-income countries and that this may serve as active vaccine surveillance, in 2020,

the Department of Mother and Child Health and the Health Technology Assessment Department started to work in a systematic review of all the adverse events described in pregnant women with other vaccines which used platforms and/or adjuvants similar to those used in anti-SARS-CoV-2 formulations. The project was promoted by COVAX, the mechanism co-sponsored by the WHO to equitably distribute vaccines; funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.





THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC IN SICK CHILDREN

How did the pandemic impact on the provision of **pediatric palliative care** in countries where these practices are well developed, such as the USA? To find this out, the IECS' Palliative Care Unit participated in designing and conducting a research in two hospitals in Boston to study, among other things, the **medical and financial impact** of the health crisis, the challenges and benefits of telemedicine and the impact of these



problems in **caregivers**. Of the 29 families interviewed, 20% reported new financial difficulties when compared to 6.9% prior to the pandemic. These families identified several changes in care, including suspension of services and restrictions to access hospitals. In this context, the hybrid (telemedicine/in-person) model, which was more flexible and efficient in providing care, was considered positive. The caregivers reported more **anxiety and work overload** because they were in charge of providing care and they were alone at home or in the hospital as a consequence of the pandemic.



HOW TO OVERCOME REJECTION TO VACCINES

Rejection or resistance to vaccines is considered a real public health challenge by the World Health Organization (WHO).

In the past few years, vaccination-rejection groups have had impact on the appearance of **outbreaks**, with negative influence on campaigns to eradicate immune-preventable diseases and, in the context of COVID-19, limiting strategies aimed at containing and defeating the pandemic. To progress in understanding the different factors involved in this type of attitudes and help **design interventions** aimed at improving vaccination coverage, the Qualitative Research on Health Unit team focuses its efforts on studies related to **the barriers to vaccination coverage of mothers, children and adults**. The objective is clear: save the lives that can be saved and protect the communities with the most cost-effective tool available in health.



Science shares research information

When is the best time to administer convalescent plasma? Is the use of hyperimmune equine serum or remdesivir justified? Is there evidence supporting ivermectin use? These are only some of the questions addressed in the more than thirty **health technology assessment documents about the pandemic** we prepared and made public in a **specific open**

repository available [here](#).

This way, in times of uncertainty, we offer **useful updated information** for the institutions (both members of our [Consortium for Health Technology Assessments](#) and different participants of the health system in our region) to make appropriate decisions, which would improve the efficiency of the system and maximize benefits for the population.

CREATION OF THE CENTER FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND INNOVATION IN HEALTH POLICIES

With the purpose of contributing to public debate and informed decision-making about health policies, providing analysis and advice to different governments, institutions and health organizations at national, regional and international level, we created the Center for Implementation and Innovation in Health Policies (CIIPS). Its Director, Prof. Dr. Adolfo Rubinstein, one of the IECS founders, is a Family

Doctor and Master in Epidemiology from Harvard. In this initiative, he has been working with a highly qualified team with experience in health management applied to the public sector. To learn more about this new center, access this video or visit www.iecs.org.ar/ciips. **video or visit www.iecs.org.ar/ciips.**



Strong emphasis on training

One of the most important goals of CIIPS is training on implementation and management programs and health policies intended make health systems more accessible, equitable, with better quality and sustainable. Following this path, the CIIPS developed a course on **Management and Research Programs and Health Policies in the Master's Degree in**

Clinical Effectiveness (PEC) of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) School of Medicine and launched, along with the Torcuato Di Tella University (UTDT) Government School, an **Advanced Program in Health Policies**, with an executive profile and distant-learning, which includes understanding the Argentina's Health System,

analyzing the variables and factors that influence health policy cycles and assessing the importance of information for strategic decision making. Also, introductory virtual courses were held at the Province of Corrientes and 23 municipalities of the Province of Buenos Aires related to readiness and response of health systems to the pandemic.

IMPROVING MEASUREMENT IN MATERNAL HEALTH

In order to end preventable maternal mortality, the global "Improving Maternal Health Measurement" initiative, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and led by the Harvard School of Public Health, aims at developing and validating **new indicators** focused on "**proximal**" (direct) and other "**distal**" (from the health system, government, etc.) **factors**, which determine or influence the way women die. During the second stage of this project and as research is being conducted in Ghana and India, our Department of Mother and Child Health began to lead a study in the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, La Pampa and Buenos Aires, which includes reviewing all the available and relevant information and implementing surveys for healthcare professionals and women. The expected impact is to **improve the metrics**, the quality of health data and to provide new knowledge on the validation **methods** for health indicators.





TENDENCIES IN CHOLESTEROL

Argentina is among the three Latin American countries which, in the last four decades, were more effective in reducing “non-HDL” cholesterol levels, as indicated by an international study led by the Imperial College of London (Great Britain), after reviewing more than one thousand studies

on 102.6 million people. Four investigators from the Department of Research on Chronic Diseases participated in this. Our team pointed out: “We are on the good track, but we cannot relax. In our population, cardiovascular disease is still the primary cause of death.

EARLY CANCER DETECTION AT THE WORKPLACE

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most common cancer in our country. With the purpose of increasing the **CRC screening rate at early stages** to promote **treatment and cure** of this disease, we developed an implementation research, conducted on the Buenos Aires

Province public servants. The project gathered professionals from three IECS’ teams (the Department of Health Technology Assessment and the Communication and Qualitative Health Research Units), and this included, among



other initiatives, speaking with the personnel, sharing information about this tumor and providing a kit to perform an **immunochemical Fecal Occult Blood self-test (iFOB)**. The strategy implemented at the workplace facilitates the access of individuals to different medical interventions, thus making **early disease detection** possible.

OUR NEW CANCER RESEARCH CENTER

A new center was added to the “family” of the IECS’ Department of Research on Chronic Diseases. The Center for Excellence in Cancer Research (CEDIC), a joint project in collaboration with the Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University, Lima, Peru and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA, aims at developing both research and training activities related to cancer prevention, early detection and control, including assessment of the effects screening programs have in different types of tumors.
All the best!



SMOKING IN NIGERIA

During 2020, thanks to a collaboration with the Center for The Study of the Economies (CSEA) of **Africa**, Nigeria, the IECS' Department of Health Technology Assessment carried out a joint project to assess the burden of disease, direct and indirect costs of smoking and cost-effectiveness of interventions in this African country, as well as to provide tools

to present and share results. This is our first experience with this type of studies on **the impact of smoking tobacco** outside Latin America and it is an acknowledgement of our experience and publications in this field.

Part of the team work of this project.



WHO'S UPDATED GUIDE ON PATIENT SAFETY



In 2011, the World Health Organization (WHO) published a Patient Safety Curriculum Guide intended to educate professionals in this field and to improve safety during care. During 2020, Dr. Viviana Rodríguez and Dr. Ezequiel García Elorrio participated in an international group to update this guide, including the latest evidence on different subjects such as risk approach, fall prevention or medication errors. The WHO estimates that 1 every 10 patients experience an adverse event during hospitalization.

FELLOWS



Diana Pinto Pérez



Fernando Argento



Milagros García Díaz

Diana Pinto Pérez, Registered Nurse graduated from Bogota's Health Sciences University Foundation (Colombia), became a research fellow. She has been chosen among dozens of Healthcare, Social Sciences, Human Sciences, Economic and Exact Sciences professionals. She is taking the UBA School of Medicine's Master's Degree in Clinical Effectiveness, just like **Fernando Argento**, Physical Therapist, and Bachelor **Milagros García Díaz**. We welcome you!

PROJECT MEETINGS

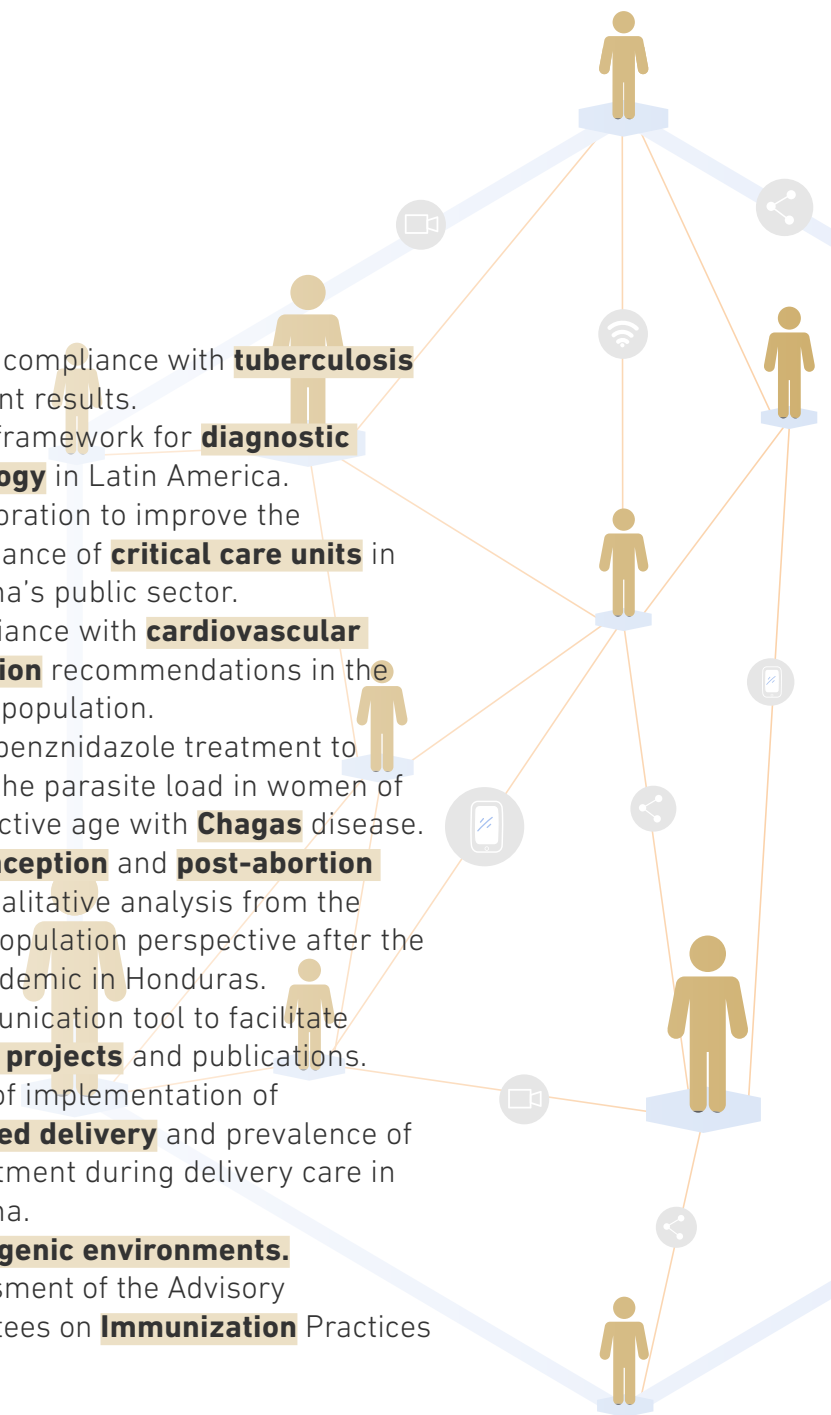
During 2020, we did not attend in-person meetings, but we were as connected as ever and facing the challenges and projects imposed by the pandemic.

On Mondays, at midday, researchers, fellows and other IECS' professionals continued sharing the initiatives, results and experiences from each department and unit aimed at facilitating transverse exchange and promoting contribution from their different perspectives. These were 31 meetings with an average number of 40-50 participants, where we spoke about the following, among others:

- > The **impact of the pandemic** on children and young adults with life-limiting illnesses.
- > **Epidemiological model** to assess the readiness and capability response of health systems in Latin America and the Caribbean to **COVID-19**.
- > Development of a new World Health Organization (WHO) **partograph**.
- > Assessment of **COVID-19 convalescent plasma** in reducing progression to severe disease in the elderly with mild SARS-COV2 symptoms.
- > Design and evaluation of an interactive mobile application to

monitor compliance with **tuberculosis** treatment results.

- > Value framework for **diagnostic technology** in Latin America.
- > Collaboration to improve the performance of **critical care units** in Argentina's public sector.
- > Compliance with **cardiovascular prevention** recommendations in the general population.
- > Short benznidazole treatment to reduce the parasite load in women of reproductive age with **Chagas** disease.
- > **Contraception** and **post-abortion care**: qualitative analysis from the user's population perspective after the **Zika** epidemic in Honduras.
- > Communication tool to facilitate **sharing projects** and publications.
- > Level of implementation of **respected delivery** and prevalence of mistreatment during delivery care in Argentina.
- > **Obesogenic environments**.
- > Assessment of the Advisory Committees on **Immunization** Practices (CAPI).



Department of Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics



WE WORK IN DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE HEALTH SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE REST OF THE SOUTH HEMISPHERE.

- Study on the impact of lung cancer on the quality of life and costs for patients and families.
- Implementation research in the Province of Buenos Aires public servants to increase the rate of colorectal cancer screening.
- Analysis of consumption of resources and costs resulting from the most prevalent cancers, based on Argentina's Institutional Registry of Tumor (RITA).
- Studies to measure the disease burden attributable to smoking and its health, economic and social costs in Latin America.
- Seventy health technology assessments (31, COVID-19 related).
- Development of a value framework to assess diagnostic technologies in Latin America (www.iecs.org.ar/marcodevalor).
- Coordination of the International Society for Health Technology Assessment (HTAi) policy forum.
- Execution of several COVID-19-related projects, including pandemic modeling and capability response of health systems (along with the IECS' CIIPS and the Buenos Aires Calculus Institute) and design of an epidemiological parameters webpage.
- Analysis of budget impact and health technology assessment of drugs and devices in Latin American countries.
- Consortium for Budget Impact Analysis (BIA) and Sanitary Cost Database (SCD)
- Impact including the rotavirus vaccine in Argentina: a quasi-experimental study.

Soft Drinks with Added Sugar and Tobacco in Latin America

We continue investigating **tobacco and soft drink with added sugar consumption**, to provide scientific evidence favoring the implementation of **good health policies** (such as front-of-package labels and an increase in cigarette taxes). In the case of smoking, we lead a project where more than 40 investigators and health decision-makers, research centers and public institutions from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru took part. We were able to estimate the number of deaths and diseases caused by smoking in each country and we could also estimate the health, economic and



social-related costs. Regarding soft drinks, juices and flavored waters, we conducted a study in Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago, which determined that their consumption not only contributes to the overweight and obesity epidemic, but also showed that its “dark side” (ignored or underestimated by the population) is also responsible for thousands of cases of diabetes, cardiac disease, musculoskeletal, strokes, asthma, cancer and other diseases. The materials (both scientific publications and easy-to-read infographics) are available at www.iecs.org.ar/tabaco and www.iecs.org.ar/azucar. Both projects were financed by the *International Development Research Centre* (IDRC), Canada.



We worked on
38
projects in
12
countries in America
and Africa.

IECS-Argentine Cochrane Center

WE ARE CENTER OF THE IBEROAMERICAN COCHRANE NETWORK. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO EASE CLINICAL AND SANITARY DECISION-MAKING BASED ON THE BEST SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AVAILABLE DURING 2020.



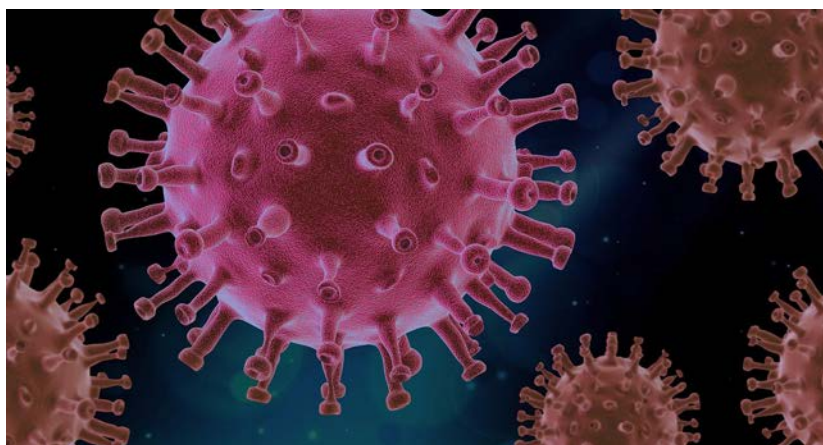
We ended and/or published reviews and meta-analysis related to:

- Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of essential food fortification as requested by the WHO.
- Systems to register maternal and neonatal information in low and middle-income countries.
- Comparison of the effects of dexamethasone and betamethasone in women at high-risk of premature delivery on maternal and perinatal outcomes.
- Impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women and newborns, impact of COVID-19 vaccine protocols on pregnancy and safety on these same groups, of the components and platforms used in vaccines against COVID-19.
- Fixed vs. adjusted doses of benznidazole for the treatment of chronic Chagas disease in adults.
- Mobile device applications to detect fake or adulterated medications.
- Devices for post-partum hemorrhage in women of reproductive age.
- Health-related quality of life and health system costs due to the loss of productivity by breast cancer patients and their families in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Epidemiology of Herpes Zoster in adults

in Latin America and the Caribbean and its economic impact.

- Models of disease burden and economic assessments of public health interventions in problems related to soft drink with added sugar consumption.
- Air pollution.
- Prevalence of HER2 overexpression and amplification in cervical cancer.





The value of evidence in COVID-19

COVID-19 highlighted the need to separate scientific evidence from rumors and assertions with no evidence at all. During 2020, we provided great support to face the COVID-19 pandemic, by organizing webinars and by participating, in addition to the already mentioned projects on maternal and child health impact, in publications in peer reviewed journals

(scoping review of testing recommendations and a systematic review on COVID-19 RT-PCR false negative results), one editorial and three summaries and comments in local journals about pressing topics on SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology and treatment. We also initiated a systematic review about post-COVID multisystem inflammatory syndrome in Latin America.

We generated and shared large amounts of evidence to face COVID-19 pandemic, about its epidemiology during pregnancy and its diagnosis and treatment.

Department of Mother and Child Health Research

THROUGH RESEARCH, WE SEEK TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS. THESE WERE SOME OF THE PROJECTS WE WORKED ON DURING 2020:

- Short benznidazole treatment to reduce parasite load in women of reproductive age infected with *Trypanosoma cruzi*: A non-inferiority randomized clinical trial.
- A prospective study of congenital Chagas disease: Characteristics of the parasite and human host and validation of neonatal molecular diagnosis - Scientific and Technological Research Projects (PICT).
- A multifaceted intervention to improve access to a comprehensive approach to Chagas disease in the first level of care in Argentina: a pilot study.
- Environmental analysis: level of readiness of sites to carry out active monitoring of maternal immunization safety in low and middle-income countries.
- Environmental analysis: a systematic



review of the safety of COVAX-COVID-19 vaccines or their components during pregnancy.

- Development of educational material and communication of the Intrapartum Care Guideline (WHO): user manual, list of presentations to communicate and train, addressed to health managers and healthcare professionals.
- Development of tools to implement the WHO Recommendations: care during delivery for a positive delivery experience and preparation of implementation briefs about the recommendations included in the WHO Intrapartum Care Guideline.

- Implementation of the WHO Intrapartum Care Guideline to reduce the number of C-sections carried out in hospitals in India: A cluster randomized trial.
- Initial detection and treatment of post-partum hemorrhage with the MOTIVE bundle: A WHO Group Randomized Trial with Health Economic Analysis (E-MOTIVE STUDY).
- Global initiative to end preventable maternal mortality (Improving Maternal Health Measurement).
- Calcium fortified water to prevent preeclampsia.
- Zika virus infection in pregnant women in Honduras.

WHO Partograph and C-section Reduction



After participating along with a World Health Organization (WHO) team in the development of the new “partograph” or Intrapartum Care Guideline, and in conducting a study of usability and feasibility of its implementation in five countries, our Department will try to assess the impact of this guide in reducing unnecessary C-sections. The project, which will be carried out at three maternal centers of the State of Karnataka, India, obtained grants from INITIATIVE- Global Grand Challenges-Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and will be conducted together with the WHO and two other academic institutions (one from India and the other one from Australia).

In 2020,
44 articles were submitted for review to peer-reviewed scientific journals, and **33** have already been approved.

Department of Research on Chronic Diseases

WE SEEK TO PROMOTE HEALTH BY GENERATING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND IMPLEMENTING INTERVENTIONS WHICH MAY ALLOW TO PREVENT CHRONIC DISEASES AND OPTIMIZE THEIR COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT. THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH FOR SOUTH AMERICA IN THE SOUTHERN CONE (CESCAS), THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENTATION IN PALLIATIVE CARE (CII-CP) AND NOW THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH (CEDIC) ARE PART OF OUR DEPARTMENT. DURING 2020, WE WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING:

CARDIOMETABOLIC DISEASES:

- Optimization of heart failure outpatient treatment in low and middle-income countries. One multi-component program (COMM-HF Initiative).
- An innovative approach to improve cardiovascular risk detection and follow-up in first level of public care: A Feasibility Study in Argentina.
- Implementation of a multi-component intervention to improve hypertension control in Central America.
- Cardiovascular disease prevention using mobile-health (m-Health) based strategies, electronic support system for decision-making.
- Use of mobile technology and social media to strengthen the implementation of a primary prevention program for type 2 diabetes in the first level of care in the Province of Mendoza.
- Comprehensive approach to improve diabetes prevention and care in vulnerable population within the public health system in Argentina.
- Escalation of a program to improve healthcare services in the first level

of care of diabetic patients in three provinces of Argentina.

- Assessment of policies and programs to improve physical activity and food environments with the purpose of fighting obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in Argentina.
- Effectiveness of a multi-component intervention by the family and community health team to improve compliance with treatment in individuals with chronic diseases.

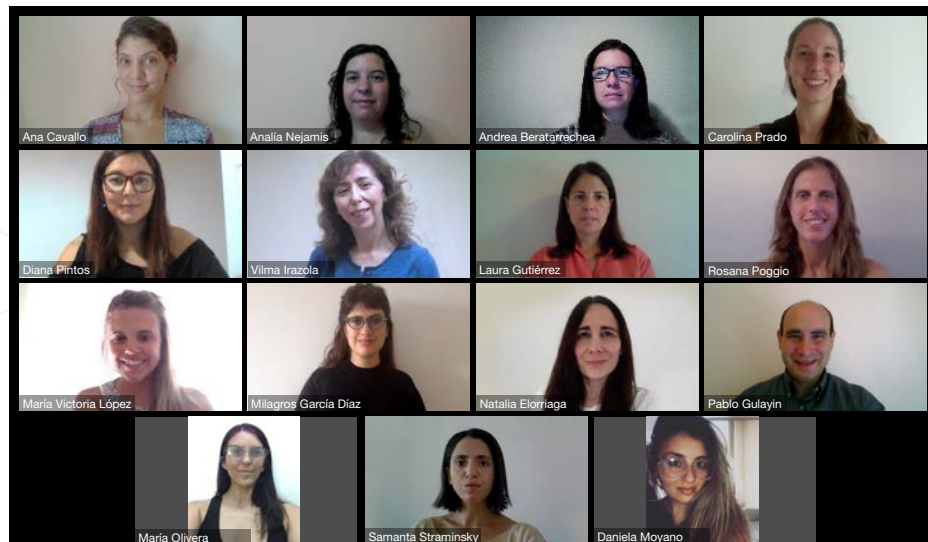
CANCER:

- Comprehensive strategy to improve colorectal cancer population screening in the public health system in Argentina.
- Assessment of feasibility, acceptability and usability of a mobile application in colorectal cancer risk classification in Argentina.
- Colorectal cancer in Argentina: One Innovative Intervention based on Peer Mentoring to Increase Screening Coverage.
- Impact of socioeconomic determinant factors and of the patient immigration waves, at the different stages of

↓ continued

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

Department of Research on Chronic Diseases



continued cancer patient care in Argentina.

- Systematic review of the impact of geographic accessibility to medical care of individuals with colorectal cancer.

COVID-19:

- Training on COVID-19 screening in the Provinces of Corrientes and Buenos Aires.

EATING HABITS:

- Availability, visibility and promotion of food and non-alcohol, healthy and unhealthy

beverages in food selling points in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

- Community of Practices in healthy food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

OTHER PROJECTS:

- Open Data Initiative: share data to improve the impact and transparency of research.

- Gaps in the response to the needs of the elderly in order to achieve a healthy aging.

Two Prevalent Diseases



DIABETES AND
CARDIOVASCULAR
DISEASES

Our Department has been chosen to lead two projects aimed at improving the prevention, detection and comprehensive management of two very prevalent conditions. The first one, with funds from the World Diabetes Federation (WDF), will focus on reducing the incidence and optimizing diabetes care, the second one, jointly with Harvard University and with a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will be focused on cardiovascular diseases, mainly, implementing strategies of person-centered care, with a collaborative distribution of tasks within the health team and laboratory measurements at the point of care. Both projects involve participation of several Argentine provinces and are focused on the communities.

80%
of our projects
focus on primary
care.

Center for Research and Implementation in Palliative Care (CII-CP)

WE SEEK TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE (CPP) AT ALL LEVELS OF HEALTH CARE BY GENERATING INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE PRACTICES, STRENGTHEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CPP NETWORK OF PROVIDERS AND BY SPECIFIC TRAINING. DURING 2020:



- We worked in the PediQUEST Response intervention study (Response to suffering due to symptoms of cancer in children). Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we adapted the recruitment and intervention methods to virtual mode.
- We participated in the design and implementation of a study that assessed the impact of the pandemic

- in families of children with life-threatening diseases.
- We conducted the second Survey on Health Human Resources specialized in CPP at public and private institutions in Argentina.
- We continued providing technical advice in CPP research to healthcare institutions and professional societies.

Human Resources in Health in Pediatric Palliative Care (RHUS CPP) Survey



Just one third of the public hospitals treating children with complex chronic diseases in Argentina have individuals or teams assigned to pediatric palliative care, according to the preliminary results from the second Human Resources survey carried out in this area in 2020 by our unit researchers, based on the data collected from 315 public institutions. These data will be used to design public policies, to learn where to focus training efforts or make up teams, to learn where to

refer patients and to deepen network development. This full information will be available in 2021.

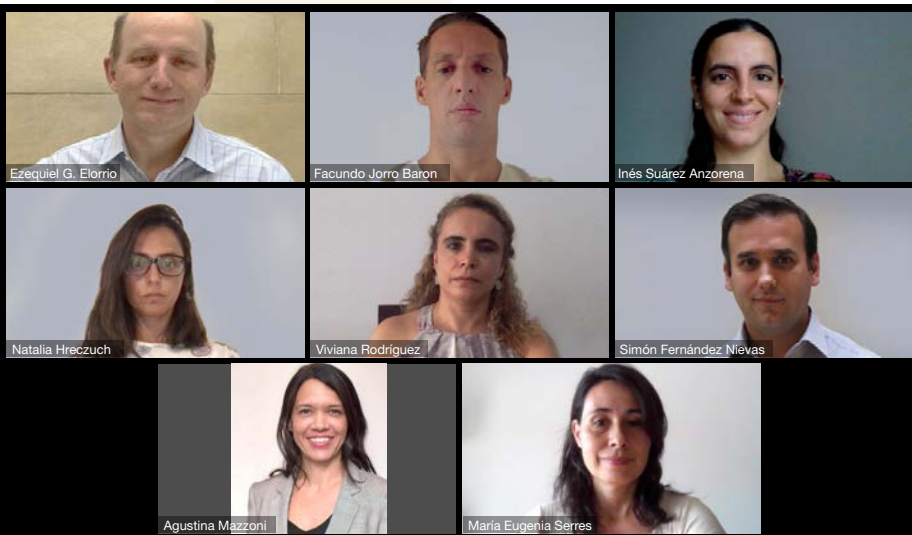
During 2020, our team published **3** articles in pair-reviewed journals

Recommendations to Continue Care

In view of the mandatory rescheduling of care imposed to healthcare centers due to the pandemic, members of our Unit participated in preparing some specific recommendations of the Argentinean Society of Pediatrics (SAP) to continue taking care of patients in need for this service. "This document expressed that it is essential to guarantee that patients with life-threatening diseases and their relatives are accompanied, thus providing them with continuous, timely, safe and high-quality care.



Department of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety



OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO COLLABORATE IN DEVELOPING A MODEL OF CARE THAT IS EFFICACIOUS, EFFECTIVE, SAFE, TIMELY, FOCUSED ON THE INDIVIDUALS, EQUITABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. FOLLOWING THIS GUIDELINE, DURING 2020, WE WERE PART OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES:

- Initiatives to improve the user experience during the surgical process based on the TeamSTEPPS model implemented in three clinics in Buenos Aires.
- Collaborative initiative to improve quality in 15 Intensive Care Units in Argentina during the pandemic (Project 5C), jointly with the Argentinean Society of Intensive Care (SATI).
- Collaborative initiative to improve heart failure treatment in Argentina (Project BRICA).

- Cooperation with the WHO to update contents on patient safety training.
- Technical cooperation to improve quality and safety of the patient with Hospital Británico of Uruguay.
- Several distance learning courses about quality and safety of the patient for Latin American audiences.
- Opening of the Southern Latin American Office of Planetree for healthcare institutions interested in reaching standard of care focused on the individuals.
- Review of contents for certification as patient safety professional by the Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI).
- Research study to identify adverse events

- in primary care (Project ARGEAS).
- Organization of webinars together with ISQua to share Latin American experiences on improving quality and safety in health.
- Cooperation with the Batz Foundation (United States) to develop initiatives in Latin America to ease error detection in care by the patients and their relatives.
- Cooperation project with Brazil's National Accreditation Organization (ONA) to develop TeamSTEPPS initiatives in that country.
- Cooperation with the Pharmaceutical Federation (FEFARA) to develop a self-assessment questionnaire for clinical pharmacists on drug safety in Latin America.

To Improve Intensive Care



The pandemic placed Intensive Care Units under public scrutiny. But we are not only talking about available beds; it is also about quality of care (in patients with or without COVID-19) and the safety and wellbeing of the treating team. To address and intervene in these questions, we launched a collaboration initiative (5C) with the Argentinean Society of Intensive Care (SATI) in 15 Intensive Care Units aimed at improving three items: the use of personal protective equipment, the use of a self-assessment tool to determine the stress and psychophysical wellbeing of the professionals and implementation of checklists in the process of care which allow, e.g., to prevent catheter-induced bacteremia, pressure ulcers or longer periods of antibiotic administration.

The IECS represents the **Planetree**, in the Southern Cone, a pioneer in programs of care focused on the patient and patient relatives.

Center for Implementation and Innovation in Health Policies

THE CIIPS EXTENDS AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE ACADEMY, THE USERS, HEALTH SERVICES AND HEALTH POLICIES. WE TRANSLATED THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH INTO AN UNDERSTANDABLE, RELIABLE AND ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE ADDRESSED TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING POLICIES AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.



Born amidst the pandemic, in a complex and particular context, the CIIPS was able to confirm the value of articulating evidence with decision making so that health systems could better face health challenges, thus generating tools for health management. During 2020, we worked in the following **projects**:

- Development of a comprehensive model for readiness and response of health systems in the 26 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to estimate the impact on COVID-19 spread.
- Advice the Province of Corrientes on readiness and response of the health system to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Technical support for municipal implementation and management for prevention, readiness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 26 municipalities in the Province of

Buenos Aires.

- Preparation of a common entry registration form for the PROSUR member countries in order to control COVID-19 virus transmission.
- Support to the health information systems for decision making on how to approach COVID-19 in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Also, we carried out several academic activities oriented to strengthening health management.

We developed a course on Management and Research Programs and Health Policies in the Master's Degree in Clinical Effectiveness (PEC) of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) School of Medicine and launched, along with **Torcuato Di Tella University (UTDT)**, **Advance Program in Health Policies** (for more information about the CIIPS academic activities, see the Highlights section).

Practical Tools to Face the Pandemic

COVID-19 showed the need for tools based on data and for a better evidence to guide preparedness and response to a global health crisis. The CIIPS made two extremely valuable, practical contributions in this field; they are both free of charge. On the one hand, with Inter-American Development Bank (DIB) funding, the CIIPS developed an interactive model to estimate the impact of COVID-19 spread, directed to health decision makers of the region and their work teams so that they can project, well in advance, the result of the different public health measures on the progress curve of transmission, deaths and availability of Intensive Care

beds and mechanical ventilators. Access the model [here](#). CIIPS also created a dynamic dashboard that enables interactive view of the COVID-19 epidemiological indications in 24 jurisdictions in Argentina, such as incidence of the disease, actual transmission rate (Rt) or positive test rate, fed with the data daily published by Argentina's National Ministry of Health. Access the dashboard [here](#).



More than
3.500
people attended
our webinars and
training
sessions.

To learn
more about
CIIPS, watch
this
video.

Qualitative Research on Health Unit

OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP RESEARCH WITH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN ORDER TO STUDY FACTORS DETERMINING HEALTH IN THE POPULATION. WE WORK IN EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS CULTURALLY ADJUSTED TO DIFFERENT SETTINGS. DURING 2020, WE WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Evaluation of National Advisory Committees on Immunization Practices (CAPI) in Central American countries.
- Strategies to monitor social inequities in vaccination in Colombia, a case study.
- Qualitative research on reluctance to children vaccination in two cities in Argentina.



- Educational research to design a strategy for colorectal cancer in a work setting.
 - Development of initiatives to improve quality in patient care in a heart failure clinic network in Argentina.
- We are also working in projects led by the Department of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety related to patient safety

and improvement in the quality of care in COVID-19 health emergency. We collaborate in a study of the Department of Mother and Child Health Research on the analysis and preparedness for active surveillance of maternal immunization safety sites in low and middle-income countries in the context of new COVID-19 vaccines.

Zika and Reproductive Health in Honduras

TIMELINE	ACTIVITIES	RECOMMENDATION
Nov 2017	PROJECT PRESENTATION IN METROPOLITAN REGION TO LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES	ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS
Dec 2017	Data collection, stage 1, round 1	Interventions proposed and/or implemented
Jan 2018	Presentation of results for the identification of gaps and areas for improvement with:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training update on family planning in context of Zika. Engagement of local health authorities.
Feb 2018	Health centres and local health authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of WHO/FMHO country office.
Mar 2018	Hospital directors, WHO/FMHO representatives, and WHO Reproductive health representative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of WHO/FMHO brochures to health professionals. Training on PAC in primary care clinics.
Apr 2018	Data collection, stage 1, round 2	Interventions proposed and/or implemented
May 2018	Presentation of results for the identification of gaps and areas for improvement with:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of WHO/FMHO brochures to health professionals. Training on PAC in primary care clinics.
June 2018	Hospital authorities and Honduran Society for Gynaecology and Obstetrics representative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of brochures on family planning and PAC tailored to community needs and distribution in health facilities. Design of a check list for PAC. Acquisition of 20 MVA kits for hospitals.
July 2018	Data collection, stage 2, round 3	Interventions proposed and/or implemented
Aug 2018	Presentation of results to Honduran Health Secretary, Antonio Viall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of brochures and posters to health centres and nursing school. Donation of 15 beds for MVA room. Donation of 10 MVA kits for hospital emergency room. Donation of desk for FP counselling office. Training on IEC for health care staff. Provision of IEC kits and audiotape from Metropolitan Region to health centres. Development of documents to be used in PAC. Acquisition of 20 MVA kits for hospitals.
Sept 2018		

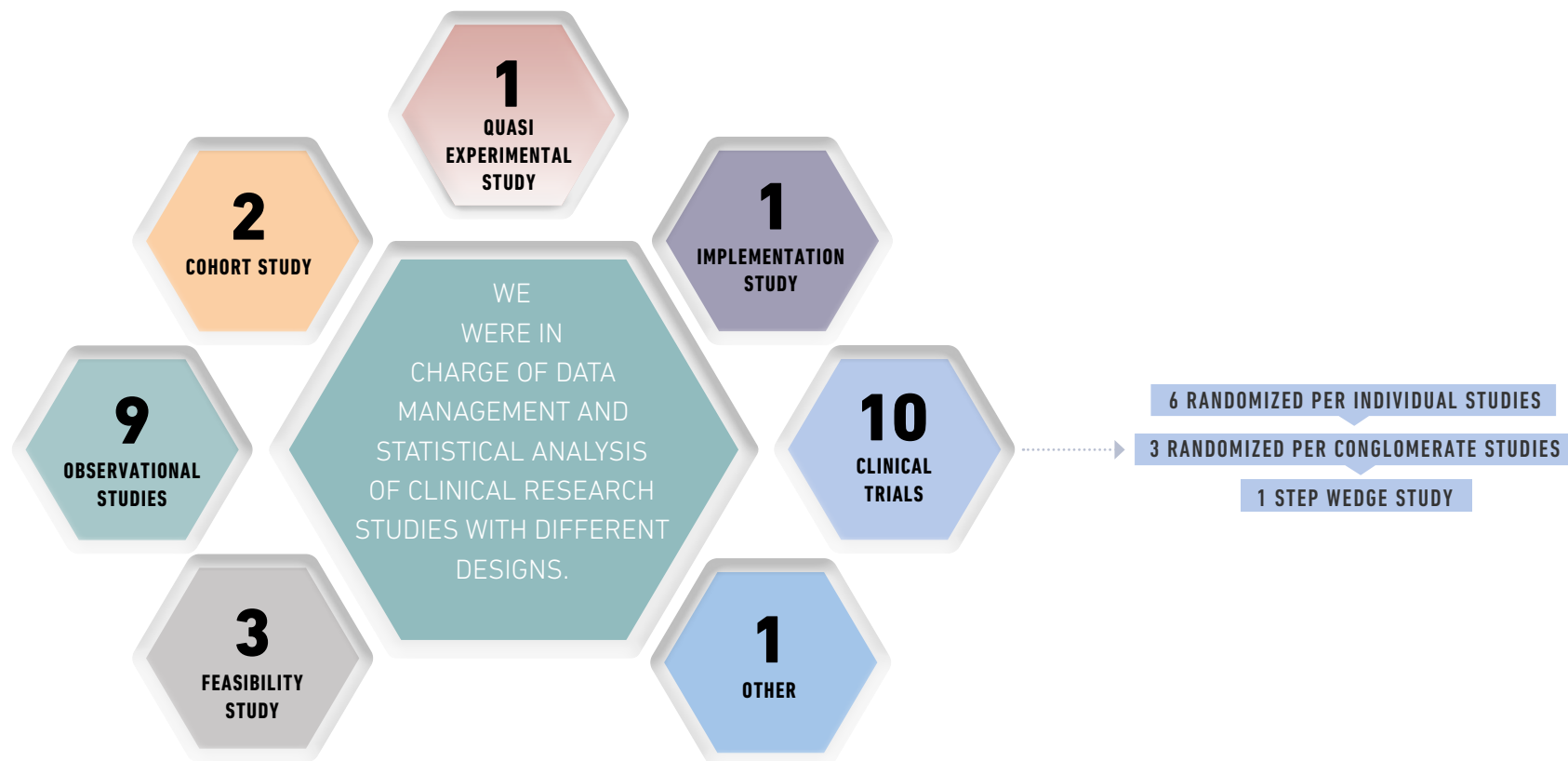
The epidemic of Zika, an infection with serious risk for newborns when pregnant mothers get infected, highlighted the weaknesses of the health systems that do not allow access and use of sexual and reproductive health services. Using a

qualitative approach, we participated in a study that identified barriers and opportunities for improvement in providing these services in Honduras, which guided preparation for specific recommendations to implement changes in public institutions in that country, as described in a paper published in September 2020 in **BMC Women's Health**.

During 2020, our team published **18** articles in pair-reviewed journals

Statistics, Data Management and Information Systems Unit

WE DESIGN, CONDUCT, ANALYZE AND REPORT RESEARCH STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY THE IECS AND EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS WITH THE HIGHEST SCIENTIFIC AND ETHICAL STANDARDS OF QUALITY.



RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

Statistics, Data Management and Information Systems Unit



We manage large amounts of data. If we consider the most outstanding studies, they exceed

13 million
of fields.

Historical Works Carried Out in the Context of the Pandemic

We were in charge of coordinating data management and statistical analysis of one study that allowed to evaluate if early administration of plasma from patients who had coronavirus and recovered, was efficacious in stopping and reducing the disease in the elderly. Our Unit also designed and coordinated the randomization and plasma or placebo administration to the trial participants independently. This research led by Dr. Fernando Polack from the Children Foundation involved more

than 13 hospitals in the Province of Buenos Aires and City of Buenos Aires. Also, we helped the Children Foundation to conduct a randomized clinical trial with the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine, by developing a tool validated to be used as computerized clinical record. This allowed the enrollment of up to 500 volunteers daily and more than 5,000 subjects completed the first visit in 35 days and their follow up as per protocol, with no use of paper.

Department of Education

OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE TRAINING PROPOSALS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH, PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND HEALTH POLICY MANAGEMENT AND TO PROVIDE PEDAGOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEPARTMENT AND UNITS. ALSO, WE ORGANIZED THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S MASTER'S DEGREE IN CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS.

DURING THE PANDEMIC, WE CONTINUED THE MASTER'S DEGREE SESSIONS.

100% virtual mode allowed to continue with the activities.



FROM:

Argentina, Spain, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Venezuela and Nicaragua

100 STUDENTS
TAKING THE MASTER'S DEGREE
(1ST AND 2ND YEAR)

51 STUDENTS
STARTED TAKING THE PROGRAM
IN 2020.

20
(FULL OR PARTIAL) GRANTS
WERE AWARDED.



Reinvention in the context of isolation

The Mandatory Social Preventive Isolation (ASPO) was announced in Argentina on the same day that the Master's Degree in Clinical Effectiveness program started in 2020. Despite this, we could jump and immediately adapt to online lectures. This means that no activity was lost or suspended. This change was possible thanks to our teachers' expertise, their predisposition and flexibility towards the use of technology that both teachers and students showed, our strong pedagogic proposals, our availability of a virtual campus and the range and quality of the already developed resources. No loss, all gain. This successful experiences encouraged us to progress towards virtual mode for the next Master's program cohorts, where the workload is distributed among synchronous and asynchronous activities.

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING COURSES

27
COURSES

AREAS OF TRAINING

- MANAGEMENT, QUALITY AND SAFETY IN HEALTHCARE
[See the academic offer](#)
- MEDICINE BASED ON EVIDENCE, SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSIS
[See the academic offer](#)
- HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS AND ECONOMIC EVALUATIONS
[See the academic offer](#)
- ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS AND APPLIED STATISTICS
[See the academic offer](#)
- HEALTH POLICIES
[See the academic offer](#)

1797 ENROLLED IN OUR COURSES



ALSO,
DURING THE FIRST
SIX-MONTH
PERIOD

We continued with our Epidemiology In Global Health and Health and Society courses for the New York University college students.

We continued with our technical cooperation agreement with the Austral University and Hospital Academic Development Department.

RENEWED COURSES

The curricula of some of our academic proposals have been fully updated. We also organized new training sessions including:

- **Introduction to Epidemiology and Statistics Applied to Clinical Research.**

This new *combined mode (with synchronous and recorded classes)* was a success.

- **Training in Teamwork to Improve Patient Safety (Theory and Drills).**

- **Search Selection and Evaluation of Studies in Systematic Reviews**

- Also the curriculum of the **Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis** course was updated.

- Introduction to Assessment of the Scientific Evidence Using the GRADE System in Clinical Practice Guidelines

- **Introduction to Health Technology Assessments and Economic Evaluations.**

IECS Grants Program



WE AWARDED

4 GRANTS
for the 2020
Research Fellows
Program



16 partial GRANTS
for the Master in Clinical
Effectiveness



4 full GRANTS
for associations
of patients.



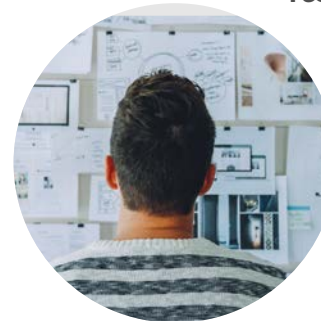
Other Scientific News

The **Center for Implementation and Innovation in Health Policies (CIIPS)** developed a course in Management and Research Programs and Health Policies in the Master's Degree in Clinical Effectiveness and launched the Advanced Program on Health Policies along with Torcuato Di Tella University's School of Government. For more information, click [here](#).



Implementation Research

To publish a paper is just part of the journey. Implementation research refers to the scientific study of methods to promote the **systematic adoption of the results obtained from research and any other knowledge based on the evidence from routine practice** and, therefore, to improve quality and effectiveness



of health services and care. Since 2015, the group of researchers from the Department of Mother and Child Health has been offering the course on implementation research and, in 2020, the team of Qualitative Research on Health Unit became part of this course thus providing **theoretical and practical tools** to strengthen design and assessment of **interventions** training. To learn about the course click [here](#).

FOREIGN INTERNS IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Two US students carried out their internship at our Center for Research and Implementation in Palliative Care (CII-CP). These were:

ZOE TAO, from the **Southwestern University, Texas.**

She completed an internship research on Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC).

JONATHAN DÍAZ, from the **University of Southern California.**

He cooperated with our survey on PPC and with an activity developed by the Argentinean Society of Pediatrics.

Communication Unit

WE DEVELOP ACTIONS TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN CREATING EVIDENCE AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING BOTH IN THE GENERAL POPULATION AND HEALTH DECISION MAKERS.

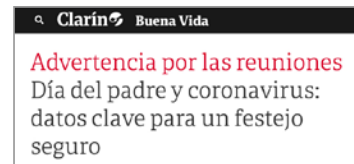
Infodemic

There was a pandemic caused by a new virus... and there was also an “infodemic”: **excessive amounts of information** provided through different channels which, according to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), has also promoted **misinformation, rumors and manipulations** with doubtful intentions. In many cases, these favor changes in approaches that expose the population to higher risks. In view of this scenario, the Communication Unit had a goal: to share **accurate information**, to clear out misunderstanding or misinterpretations and to provide **scientific evidence** of different subjects related to COVID-19. This way, we made **120 appearances in the mass media**.

This contribution was also vital for public health.



LA NACIÓN



CLARÍN



LA VANGUARDIA (Spain)



ÁMBITO

SEE
REPORTS
[HERE](#)

PRESS

We also shared information about our usual lines of research.

We were included in

250
news reports.



EFE NEWS AGENCY



TÉLAM NEWS AGENCY

SCIENCE AVAILABLE FOR EVERY PUBLIC

We participated in different research projects, by intervening and creating computer images, videos and other products, which allowed us to translate “scientific language” into a “language” that every public can understand.



Computer image on drinks with added sugar
[See more](#)

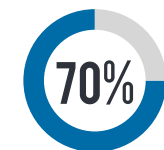


Shooting of a colorectal cancer video.

FIGURES

The traffic at www.iecs.org.ar grew by **40%**
We published **6** newsletters [Click here](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

We increased our number of followers by 70%



Twitter

We tripled our visits and mentions in our profile.



LinkedIn

We added followers from: Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and Spain.

Operations Management and Support Unit

A LARGE TEAM OF ADMINISTRATIVE, ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF WORK TRANSVERSALLY TO CONTRIBUTE WITH THE WORK, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF IECS.



SEARCH FOR FUNDING

- > We actively work to develop and diversify our funding sources.
- > In 2020, we applied for 112 research grants (30% increase when compared with 2019).

HH.RR.

We achieved improvement in designing tools, technologies, procedures and policies that may contribute with the implementation of good professional practices in Human Resources.

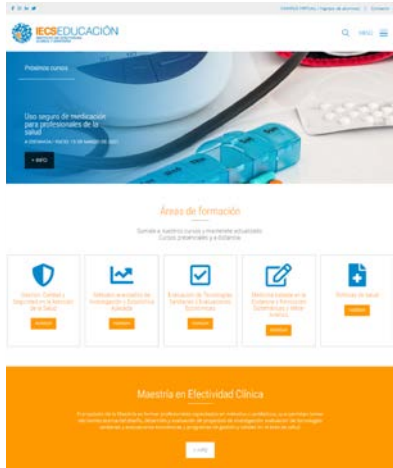


We manage more than **100** research, education and technical cooperation agreements.

Marketing

To be consistent with the organization's strategic objectives, we developed and implemented different activities and events which increased the marketing impact of educational activities carried out by IECS.

NEW WEBSITE
We created the website
<https://educacion.iecs.org.ar/>
A site that allows to learn about all the possibilities of training IECS is offering more dynamically.



The screenshot shows the IECS EDUCACIÓN website interface. At the top, it says 'Potencia cursos' and 'Unos años de investigación para profesionales de la salud'. Below that, there's a section for 'Áreas de formación' with icons for 'Cursos de actualización y perfeccionamiento', 'Cursos de especialización', 'Cursos de diplomatura', 'Cursos de maestría', and 'Cursos de doctorado'. At the bottom, there's a banner for 'Maestría en Ejecución Clínica'.

INSTAGRAM
We hopped into this social media.
Follow us!
[instagram.com/iecs_educacion/](https://www.instagram.com/iecs_educacion/)



Gender Perspective


With the strong conviction of achieving an organizational culture based on the principle of equity, we are making advances in the process of promoting equal opportunities that had already started in 2019. We created several tools (e.g., a Handbook of Coexistence and Good Practice Guidelines) that defined our institution's standpoint on this matter. These are intervention tools that may be used to address and resolve situations that may bring about inequity and discrimination. Also, a permanent workgroup called the Equal Rights, Diversity and Gender Equity Committee (CIDDEG) consolidated. For more information click [here](#).



PUBLICATIONS

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

> Frequency and management of **maternal infection** in health facilities in **52 countries** (GLOSS): a 1-week inception cohort study. *Lancet Glob Health.* 2020;8(5):e661-e71. Bonet, M., Brizuela, V., Abalos, E., Cuesta, C., Baguiya, A., Chamillard, M., Fawole, B., Knight, M., Kouanda, S., Lumbiganon, P., Althabe, F. [et.al.] *Lancet Glob Health.* 2020;8(5):e661-e71.

 **Postpartum hemorrhage care bundles** to improve adherence to guidelines: A WHO technical consultation. Althabe F, Therrien MNS, Pingray V, Hermida J, Gülmezoglu AM, Armbruster D, Singh N, Guha M, Garg LF, Souza JP, Smith JM, Winikoff B, Thapa K, Hébert E, Liljestrand J, Downe S, Garcia Elorrio E, Arulkumaran S, Byaruhanga EK, Lissauer DM, Oguttu M, Dumont A, Escobar MF, Fuchtnet C, Lumbiganon P, Burke TF, Miller S. *International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.* 2020;148(3):290-9.

> Identifying the needs and problems of those left behind and working with them to address **inequities in sexual and reproductive health**: a key focus of Reproductive Health for 2020. Belizán JM, Miller S, Chandra-Mouli V, Pingray V. *Reproductive Health.* 2020;17(1):6.

> Every woman in the world must have **respectful care during childbirth**: a reflection. Belizán JM, Miller S, Williams C, Pingray V. *Reproductive Health.* 2020;17(1):7.

> **Contraception and post abortion services**: qualitative analysis of users' perspectives and experiences following **Zika epidemic** in Honduras. Belizan M, Maradiaga E, Roberti J, Casco-Aguilar M, F. Ortez A, Avila-Flores J, González G, Bustillo C, Calderón A, Bock H, Cafferata ML, Tavares AB, Alger J, Ali M. *BMC Womens Health.* 2020;20(1):199.

> **Maternal and neonatal data collection systems** in low- and middle-income countries: scoping review protocol. Berrueta M, Bardach A, Ciaponni A, Xiong X, Stergachis A, Zaraa S, Duekens P. *Gates Open Res.* 2020;4:18.

> **Gestational weight gain** and **adverse maternal outcomes** in Brazilian women according to body mass index categories: An analysis of data from the Birth in Brazil survey. Brandão T, de Carvalho Padilha P, Granado Nogueira da Gama S, Leal MD, Gabriela Pimenta da Silva Araújo R, Cavalcante de Barros D, Esteves Pereira AP, Dos Santos K, Belizán JM, Saunders C. *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN.* 2020;37:114-20.

> **Music Therapy in Pain and Anxiety** Management during **Labor**: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Santiváñez-Acosta R, Tapia-López ELN, Santero M. *Medicina (Kaunas).* 2020;56(10).

> Factors associated with **HIV and syphilis screenings** among pregnant women at first antenatal visit in Lusaka, Zambia. Davis R, Xiong X, Althabe F, Lefante J,



Twenty-three experts in maternal health from around the world developed a set of measures to improve post-partum hemorrhage care based on evidence.



Cafferata ML, Mwenechanya M, Chomba E, Buekens P. *BMC Research Notes.* 2020;13(1):423.

> **Measurement error**, microcephaly prevalence and implications for **Zika**: an analysis of Uruguay perinatal data. Harville EW, Buekens PM, Cafferata ML, Gilboa S, Tomasso G, Tong V. *Archives of Disease in Childhood.* 2020;105(5):428-32.

> **Measurement of Head Circumference**: Implications for Microcephaly Surveillance in **Zika**-Affected Areas. Harville EW, Tong VT, Gilboa SM, Moore CA, Cafferata ML, Alger J, Gibbons L, Bustillo C, Callejas A, Castillo M, Fúnes J, García J, Hernández G, López W, Ochoa C, Rico F, Rodríguez H,

PUBLICATIONS

Zúniga C, Ciganda A, Stella C, Tomasso G, Buekens P. Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease 2020;6(1).

> Worldwide Original Research Production on **Maternal Near-Miss**: A 10-year Bibliometric Study. Hernández-Vásquez A, Bendezu-Quispe G, Comandé D, Gonzales-Carillo O. Revista Brasileira de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia. 2020;42(10):614-20.

> Usability, acceptability, and feasibility of the World Health Organization **Labour Care Guide**: A mixed-methods, multicountry evaluation. Vogel JP, Comrie-Thomson L, Pingray V, Gadama L, Galadanci H, Goudar S, Laisser R, Lavender T, Lissauer D, Misra S, Pujar Y, Qureshi ZP, Amole T, Berrueta M, Dankishiya F, Gwako G,

Homer CSE, Jobanputra J, Meja S, Nigri C, Mohaptra V, Osoti A, Roberti J, Solomon D, Suleiman M, Robbers G, Sutherland S, Vernekar S, Althabe F, Bonet M, Oladapo OT. Birth. 2020.

* The Effect of **Calcium Supplementation** on **Body Weight Before and During Pregnancy** in Women Enrolled in the WHO Calcium and Preeclampsia Trial. Cormick G, Betrán AP, Harbron J, Seuc A, White C, Roberts JM, Belizán JM, Hofmeyr GJ. The Food and Nutrition Bulletin 2020;41(3):332-42.

> The effect of **calcium supplementation on blood pressure** in non-pregnant women with **previous preeclampsia**: A randomized placebo-controlled study. Hofmeyr GJ, Seuc A, Betrán AP, Cormick G, Singata M, Fawcus S, Mose S, Frank K, Hall D, Belizán J, Roberts JM, Magee LA, von Dadelszen P. Pregnancy Hypertension Journal. 2020;23:91-6.

> Cost-effectiveness of **uterine tamponade devices** for the treatment of **postpartum hemorrhage**: A systematic review. Vogel JP, Wilson AN, Scott N, Widmer M, Althabe F, Oladapo OT. International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics 2020;151(3):333-40.

> **Mistreatment** during **childbirth**. Williams CR, Belizán JM. Lancet. 2020;396(10254):817.

> **Non-communicable diseases** and **reproductive health** in sub-Saharan Africa: bridging the policy-implementation gaps. Yaya S, Reddy KS, Belizán JM, Pingray V. Reproductive Health. 2020;17(1):8.

> Role for **maternal asthma** in severe **human**

metapneumovirus lung disease susceptibility in children. Libster R, Esteban I, Bianchi A, Alva Grimaldi L, Dueñas K, Sancillo A, Bergel E, Polack, F.P. et al. The International Journal of Infectious Diseases. 2020.



> **Respiratory Failure** and Death in Vulnerable **Premature Children** With Lower Respiratory Tract Illness. Ofman G., Pradarell, B., Caballero MT, Bianchi A, Grimaldi LA, Sancilio A, Duenas K. Rodriguez A., Ferrero F, Ferretti A, Coviello S, Ferolla FM, Acosta PL, Bergel E, Libster R, Polack FP. The International Journal of Infectious Diseases. 2020;222(7):1129-37.

> **Authorship in studies** conducted in low-and-middle income countries and published by **Reproductive Health**: advancing equitable global health research collaborations. Pingray V, Ortega V, Yaya S, Belizán JM. Reproductive Health. 2020;17(1):18.

> Early evaluation of the 'STOP SEPSIS!' WHO Global **Maternal Sepsis** Awareness Campaign implemented for healthcare providers in 46 low, middle and high-income countries. Brizuela V, Bonet M, Trigo Romero CL, Abalos E, Baguiya A, Fawole B., Knight M., Lumbiganon P, Minkauskienė M., Nabhan A, Bique Osman N., Qureshi ZP, Souza JP, Althabe F [et.al.] BMJ Open. 2020;10(5):e036338.

COVID-19

> Using **Prenatal Blood Samples** to Evaluate **COVID-19 Rapid Serologic Tests Specificity**. Alger J, Cafferata ML, Alvarado T, Ciganda A, Corrales A, Desale H, Drouin A, Fusco D, Garcia J, Gibbons L, Harville E, Lopez W, Lorenzana I,


The objective of this study was to assess the effect of 500 mg calcium supplementation, which is fundamental in the weight of women before and after pregnancy.


PUBLICATIONS

Muñoz-Lara F, Palou E, Retes E, Sierra M, Stella C, Xiong X, Zambrano LI, Duekens P. *Matern Child Health J.* 2020;24(9):1099-103.

> **False-negative results** of initial **RT-PCR** assays for **COVID-19**: A systematic review. Arevalo-Rodriguez I, Buitrago-García D, Simancas-Racines D, Zambrano-Achig P, Del Campo R, Ciapponi A, Sued O, Martínez-García L, Rutjes AW, Low N, Bossuyt PM, Pérez-Molina JA, Zamora J. *PLoS One.* 2020;15(12):e0242958.

> [Reflections on **translational health research** and the **COVID-19** case in Argentina]. Belizán JM, Bardach A, Cormick G, Irazola V, Rey R. *Medicina (B Aires).* 2020;80 Suppl 3:42-4.

✳ A call for action for **COVID-19 surveillance** and research during **pregnancy**. Buekens P, Alger J, Bréart G, Cafferata ML, Harville E, Tomasso G. *Lancet Global Health.* 2020;8(7):e877-e8.

> Value of **electrocardiography** in coronavirus disease 2019 (**COVID-19**). Haseeb S, Gul EE, Çinier G, Bazoukis G, Alvarez-García J, García-Zamora S, Klappenbach, R. [et.al.] *The Journal of Electrocardiology.* 2020;62:39-45

> **Critically-ill pediatric patients** with COVID-19. An update. Taffarel P, Jorro Barón F. *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría.* 2020;118(5):e454-e62.

CHRONIC DISEASES

> **Height and body-mass index** trajectories of school-aged children and adolescents from 1985 to 2019 in

200 countries and territories: a pooled analysis of 2181 population-based studies with 65 million participants. Ofman, G., Pradarelli, B., Caballero, M. T., Bianchi, A., Grimaldi, L. A., Sancilio, A., Duenas, K., Rodriguez, A., Ferrero, F., Ferretti, A., Coviello, S., Ferolla, F. M., Acosta, P. L., Bergel, E., Libster, R., Polack, F. P. Irazola, V. [et.al.] *Lancet.* 2020;396 (10261):1511-24.

> Repositioning of the global epicentre of **non-optimal cholesterol**. Nature. 2020;582(7810):73-7. Taddei, C., Zhou, B., Bixby, H., Carrillo-Larco, R. M., Danaei, G., Jackson, R. T., Farzadfar, F., Sophia, M. K., Di Cesare, M. Caminia Iurilli, ML., Rodriguez Martinez, A., Asghari, G., Dhana, K., Gulayin, P. [et.al.] *Nature.* 2020;582(7810):73-

> Trends in **cardiometabolic risk factors** in the Americas between 1980 and 2014: a pooled analysis of population-based surveys. Carrillo-Larco, R. M. Ferreccio, C., Hambleton, I. R., Lotufo, P. A., Nieto-Martínez, R. Zhou, B. Bentham, J., Bixby, H., Hajifathalian, K. Lu, Y. Taddei, C., Abarca-Gómez, L., Irazola, V. [et.al.] *Lancet Glob Health.* 2020;8(1):e123-e33.

> Barriers to **hypertension and diabetes** management in primary health care in Argentina: qualitative research based on a **behavioral economics approach**. Belizan M, Alonso JP, Nejamis A, Caporale J, Copo MG, Sánchez M, Rubinstein A, Irazola V. *Translational Behavioral Medicine.* 2020;10(3):741-50.

> A review of assessment indicators used by **Healthy Municipalities** and **Communities Program** in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Chaparro R, Melendi S, Santero M, Seijo M, Elorriaga N, Belizan M, Rubinstein A, Irazola V. *Health Promotion International.* 2020;35(4):714-29.

> Epidemiology of **inflammatory bowel disease** in Mexico and Colombia: Analysis of health databases, mathematical modelling and a case-series study. Ciapponi A, Virgilio SA, Berrueta M, Soto NC, Ciganda Á, Rojas Illanes MF, Rubio Martínez B, Gamba J, González Salazar CA, Rocha Rodríguez JN, Scarpellini B, Bravo Perdomo AM, Machnicki G, Aldunate L, De Paula J, Bardach A. *PLoS One.* 2020;15(1):e0228256.

> Regulatory and Policy-Related Aspects of **Calcium Fortification** of Foods. Implications for Implementing National Strategies of Calcium Fortification. Cormick G, Betrán AP, Metz F, Palacios C, Beltrán-Velázquez F,

✳
More cooperation is required
among countries to address
the gaps in knowledge about
COVID-19 and its effects
on pregnant women
and infants.
✳

PUBLICATIONS

García-Casal MLN, Peña-Rosas JP, Hofmeyr GJ, Belizán JM. *Nutrients*. 2020;12(4).

> Impact of **water fortification with calcium** on calcium intake in different countries: a simulation study. Cormick G, Gibbons L, Belizán JM. *Public Health Nutrition*. 2020;1-14.

> **Milk and Health**. Belizán JM, Cormick G. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2020;382(23):e86.

> Starting the path of **Digital Transformation** in Health Innovation in Digital Health: Conference proceeding. Fernández A, Beratarrechea A, Rojo M, Ridaio M, Celi L. *Ciencia e Innovación en Salud*. 2020;e74:68-75.

* Association between **drinking patterns** and **cardiovascular risk**: a population-based study in the Southern Cone of Latin America. Gulayin PE, Irazola V, Gutierrez L, Elorriaga N, Lanás F, Mores N, Ponzo J, Calandrelli M, Poggio R, Rubinstein A, Bardach A. *Journal of Public Health (Oxf)*. 2020;42(1):107-17.

> Contribution of calcium in drinking water from a South American country to **dietary calcium intake**. Cormick G, Lombarte M, Minckas N, Porta A, Rigalli A, Belizán JM, Matamoros N, Lupo M. *BMC Research Notes*. 2020;13(1):465.

> **Calcium-fortified foods** in public health programs: considerations for implementation. Palacios C, Cormick G, Hofmeyr GJ, García-Casal MN, Peña-Rosas JP, Betrán AP. *The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 2020.

> Health care access and health-related **quality of**

life among people with **diabetes** in the Southern Cone of Latin America—a cross-sectional analysis of data of the CESCAS I study. Kartschmit N, Beratarrechea A, Gutiérrez L, Cavallo AS, Rubinstein AL, Irazola V. *Quality of Life Research*. 2020.

> Epidemiology of **early repolarization pattern** in an adult general population. Matta MG, Gulayin PE, García-Zamora S, Gutierrez L, Rubinstein AL, Irazola VE, Poggio R, Gonzalez-Zuelgaray J. *Acta Cardiológica*. 2020;75(8):713-23.

> Disease Progression in Patients With **Hepatitis C** Virus Infection Treated With **Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents**. Mendizabal, M., Piñero, F., Ridruejo, E., Herz Wolff, F., Anders, M., Reggiardo, V., Ameigeiras, B., Palazzo, A., Alonso, C., Schinoni, M. I., Videla Zuain, M. G., Tanno, F., Figueroa, S., Santos, L., Peralta, M., Soza, A., Vistarini, C., Adrover, R., Fernández, N., Perez, D., Hernández, N., Estepo, C., Bruno, A., Descalzi, V., Sixto, M., Borzi, S., Cocozzella, D., Zerega, A., de Araujo, A., Varón, A., Rubinstein, F., Cheinquer, H., Silva, M. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 2020;18(11):2554-63.e3.

> Current **calcium fortification** experiences: a review. Palacios C, Hofmeyr GJ, Cormick G, García-Casal MN, Peña-Rosas JP, Betrán AP. *The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 2020.

> Pilot study using the ECHO model to enhance linkage to care for patients with **hepatitis C** in the custodial setting. Mendizabal, M., Testa, P., Rojas, M., Colaci, C. S., Elías, S., Nicolini, P., Olguín, S., Dunn, C., Ronchi, C., Barreiro, M., Zirpoli, M., Piñero, F., Arora, S., O. Flaherty M, Rubinstein, F., Silva, M. *The Journal of Viral Hepatitis*.

2020;27(12):1430-6.

> An analysis of policy interventions regarding **school lunch programs** and their role in the healthy nutrition of children in Córdoba, Argentina. Moyano D, Rodríguez ER, Perovic NR. *Salud Colectiva*. 2020;16:e2636.

> **Proactive prevention**: Act now to disrupt the impending non-communicable disease crisis in low-burden populations. Njuguna, B., Fletcher, S. L., Akwanalo, C., Asante, K. P., Baumann, A., Brown, A., Davila-Roman, V. G., Dickhaus, J., Fort, M., Iwelunmor, J., Irazola, V., Mohan, S., Mutabazi, V., Newsome, B., Ogedegbe, O., Pastakia, S. D., Pehrah, E. K., Plange-Rhule, J., Roth, G., Shrestha, A., Watkins, D. A., PLoS One. 2020;15(12):e0243004.



This is the first study that describes the association of alcohol use patterns and cardiovascular risk with data from the general population in the Southern Cone.



PUBLICATIONS

- > Evaluating a **multicomponent program** to improve **hypertension control** in Guatemala: study protocol for an effectiveness-implementation cluster randomized trial. Paniagua-Avila A, Fort MP, Glasgow RE, Gulayin P, Hernández-Galdamez D, Mansilla K, et al. *Trials*. 2020;21(1):509.
- > Comment on “Shadows Behind Using **Simple Risk Models** in Selection of HCC Patients for LT”. Piñero F, Rubinstein F, Laurent A, Silva M, Cherqui D, Duvoux C. *Annals of Surgery*. 2020.
- > Mortality and recurrence of **venous thromboembolic disease** in adult patients: prospective cohort. Posadas-Martinez ML, Pagotto VL, Grande Ratti MF, Alfie V, Andresik D, Torres Gomez F, Giunta DH, Luxardo R, Scolnik M, Vazquez FJ. *Revista Facultad Ciencias Médicas Universidad Nacional de Cordoba*. 2020;77(3):149-54.
- > **Care bundle** to reduce readmission in patients with **heart failure**: a modified Delphi consensus panel in Argentina. Roberti J, Vita T, Piastrella J, Porley C, Pereyra L, Diez M, Renedo F, Fairman E, Fernández A, Thierer J, García Elorrio E. *BMJ Open*. 2020;10(12):e040028.
- > **Variations between women and men** in risk factors, treatments, **cardiovascular disease** incidence, and death in 27 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries (PURE): a prospective cohort study. Walli-Attaei, M, J., Rosengren, A., Chow, C. K., Rangarajan, S, Lear, S. A., AlHabib, K. F., Davletov, K., Dans, A, Lanas, F., Yeates, K., Poirier, P., Teo, Koon K., Bahonar, A., Camilo, F. Chifamba, J., Diaz, R., Didkowska, J. A., Irazola, V., Ismail, R., Kaur, Ma., Khatib, R., Liu, X., Mańczuk, M., Miranda, J. J., Oguz, A., Perez-Mayorga, M., Szuba, A., Tsolekile, L. P., Prasad

V., Ravi, Y., Afzalhussein, Y., Anand, S. S., Yusuf, S.. *Lancet*. 2020;396(10244):97-109.

- > Moderate Alcohol and Cardiovascular Health Trial (MACH15): Design and methods for a randomized trial of moderate **alcohol consumption** and **cardiometabolic risk**. Spiegelman, D., Lovato, L. C., Khudyakov, P., Wilkens, T. L., Adebamowo, C. A., Adebamowo, S. N., Appel, L. J., Beulens, J. W., Coughlin, J. W., Dragsted, L. O., Edenberg, H. J., Eriksen, J. N., Estruch, R., Grobbee, D. E., Gulayin, P. E., Irazola, V., Krystal, J. H., Lazo, M., Murray, M. M., Rimm, E. B., Schrieks, I. C., Williamson, J. D., Mukamal, K. J. *The European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*. 2020;27(18):1967-82.

HEALTH ECONOMICS

- * Health and Economic Impact of Health Warnings and Plain **Tobacco Packaging** in Seven Latin American Countries: Results of a Simulation Model. Alcaraz A, Hernández-Vásquez A, Palacios A, Rodríguez B, Roberti J, García-Martí S, Ciapponi A, Augustovski F, Bardach A, Pichon-Riviere A. *Nicotine Tob Res*. 2020;22(11):2032-40.
- > Peruvian Valuation of the **EQ-5D-5L**: A Direct Comparison of Time Trade-Off and Discrete Choice Experiments. Augustovski F, Belizán M, Gibbons L, Reyes N, Stolk E, Craig BM, Tejada R. *Value Health*. 2020;23(7):880-8.
- > **Smoke-Free Air Interventions** in Seven Latin American Countries: Health and Financial Impact to Inform Evidence-Based Policy Implementation. Bardach A, Rodríguez MB, Ciapponi A, Augustovski F, Andrea A, Soto N, Virgilio S, Reynales Shigematsu LM, Roberti J, Pichón-Riviere A. *Nicotine Tob Res*. 2020;22(12):2149-57.



Latin American countries should not delay the implementation of neutral packaging to alleviate part of the huge health and financial burden of tobacco.



- > Health burden and economic costs of **smoking in Chile**: The potential impact of increasing cigarettes prices. Castillo-Riquelme M, Bardach A, Palacios A, Pichón-Riviere A. *PLoS One*. 2020;15(8):e0237967.
- > The health and economic burden of **smoking in 12 Latin American countries** and the potential effect of increasing tobacco taxes: an economic modelling study. Pichon-Riviere A, Alcaraz A, Palacios A, Rodríguez B, Reynales-Shigematsu LM, Pinto M, Castillo-Riquelme M, Peña Torres E, Isabel Osorio D, Huayanay L, Loza Munarritz C, Sáenz de Miera-Juárez B, Gallegos-Rivero V, De La

PUBLICATIONS

Puente V, Navia-Bueno MP, Caporale J, Roberti J, Virgilio SA, Augustovski F, Bardach A. Lancet Global Health. 2020;8(10):e1282-e94.

> The link between health technology assessment and decision making for the **allocation of health resources** in Latin America. Pichon-Riviere A, Augustovski F, García Martí S, Alfie V, Sampietro-Colom L. International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care. 2020;36(2):173-8.

> Epidemiology, resource use and costs of **rheumatoid arthritis** in Argentina. Secco A, Alfie V, Espinola N, Bardach A. Revista Peruana de Medicina Experimental y Salud Pública 2020;37(3):532-40.

> Need and inequality in the use of **health care services** in a fragmented and decentralized health system: evidence for Argentina. Palacios A, Espinola N, Rojas-Roque C. International Journal for Equity in Health. 2020;19(1):67.

CHAGAS DISEASE

> Implications of asymptomatic infection for the **natural history** of selected **parasitic tropical diseases**. Alvar J, Alves F, Bucheton B, Burrows L, Büscher P, Carrillo E, Felger I, Hübner MP, Moreno J, Pinazo MJ, Ribeiro I, Sosa-Estani S, Specht S, Tarral A, Wourgaft NS y Bilbe G. Seminars in Immunopathology 2020;42(3):231-46.

> New Scheme of **Intermittent Benznidazole** Administration in Patients Chronically Infected with Trypanosoma cruzi: Clinical, Parasitological, and Serological Assessment after Three Years of Follow-

Up. Álvarez MG, Ramírez JC, Bertocchi G, Fernández M, Hernández Y, Lococo B, Lopez-Albizu C, Schijman A, Cura C, Abril M, Laucella S, Tarleton RL, Natale MA, Castro Eiro M, Sosa-Estani S, Viotti R. Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. 2020;64(9).

> Trypanosoma cruzi loop-mediated **isothermal amplification** (Trypanosoma cruzi Loopamp) **kit** for detection of congenital, acute and Chagas disease reactivation. Besuschio, S. A., Picado, A., Muñoz-Calderón, A., Wehrendt, D. P., Fernández, M., Benatar, A., Diaz-Bello, Z., Irurtia, C., Cruz, I., Ndung'u, J. M., Cafferata, M. L., Montenegro, G., Sosa Estani, S., Lucero, R. H., Alarcón de Noya, B. Longhi, S. A., Schijman, A. G., PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 2020;14(8):e0008402.

One research carried out in the Argentine provinces of Chaco, Santiago del Estero and Tucumán is trying to prove that a short treatment with benznidazole to treat Chagas disease is non-inferior to the standard of care.



* **Short-course Benznidazole** treatment to reduce Trypanosoma cruzi parasitic load in **women of reproductive age** (BETTY): a non-inferiority randomized controlled trial study protocol. Cafferata ML, Toscani MA, Althabe F, Belizán JM, Bergel E, Berrueta M, Capparelli EV, Ciganda Á, Danesi E, Dumonteil E, Gibbons L, Gulayin PE, Herrera C, Momper JD, Rossi S, Shaffer JG, Schijman AG, Sosa-Estani S, Stella CB, Klein K, Buekens PL. Reproductive Health. 2020;17(1):128.

> **Fixed vs adjusted-dose benznidazole** for adults with chronic Chagas disease without cardiomyopathy: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Ciapponi A, Barreira F, Perelli L, Bardach A, Gascón J, Molina I, Morillo C, Prado N, Riarte A, Torrico F, Ribeiro I, Villar JC, Sosa-Estani S. PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 2020;14(8):e0008529.

QUALITY OF CARE AND PATIENT SAFETY


> **Transformational improvement** in quality care and health systems: the next decade. Braithwaite J, Vincent C, Garcia-Elorrio E, Imanaka Y, Nicklin W, Sodzi-Tetty S, Bates D. BMC Medicine. 2020;18(1):340.

> The **COVID-19** Pandemic: A Call to Action for Health Systems in Latin America to **Strengthen Quality of Care**. Garcia Elorrio E, Arrieta J, Arce H, Delgado P, Malik AM, Orrego Villagran C, Rincon S, Sarabia O, Tono T, Hermida J, Ruelas Barajas E. The International Journal for Quality in Health Care 2020.

> Implementation of a structured **patient handoff** between health care providers at a private facility in the

PUBLICATIONS

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. [García Roig C, Viard MV, García Elorrio E, Suárez Anzorena I, Jorro Barón F](#). Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría. 2020;118(3):e234-e40.

 What **Ibero-American hospitals** do when things go wrong? A cross-sectional international study. [Mira JJ, Carrillo I, García-Elorrio E, Andrade-Lourenção D, Pavan-Baptista PC, Franco-Herrera AL, Mahuina Campos-Castolo E, Poblete R, Limo J, Siu H, Sousa P](#). The International Society for Quality in Health Care 2020;32(5):313-8.

PALLIATIVE CARE

> **Parent Perceptions** of Team-Delivered Care for Children With Advanced Cancer: A Report From the PediQUEST Study. [Feraco AM, Ananth P, Dussel V, Al-Sayegh H, Ma C, Rosenberg AR, Feudtner C, Wolfe J](#). The Journal of Pain and Symptom Management 2020;60(4):811-7.

> Impact of **Specialized Pediatric Palliative Care**: A Systematic Review. [Marcus KL, Santos G, Ciapponi A, Comandé D, Bilodeau M, Wolfe J, Dussel V](#). The Journal of Pain and Symptom Management. 2020;59(2):339-64.e10.

> Spanish Adaptation of the **Pediatric Memorial Symptom Assessment Scale** for Children, Teens, and Caregivers. [Requena ML, Orellana L, Cordeiro V, Luna F, Bevilacqua MS, Gomez K, Wolfe J, Dussel V](#). The Journal of Pain and Symptom Management 2020; S0885-3924(20)30850-2.



Most of Iberian-American hospitals do not have protocols to act in case of adverse events; thus forcing to develop a strategic action plan.



VACCINATION

> Factors associated with hindering the **acceptance of HPV vaccination** among caregivers - A cross-sectional study in Argentina. [Chaparro RM, Rodríguez B, Maza Y, Moyano D, Hernández-Vásquez A](#). PLoS One. 2020;15(3):e0229793.

> Pregnant women's perspectives about **maternal immunization** in Latin America. [Fauzia Malik A, Belizan M, Gutierrez M, Vilajeliu A, Sanclemente LN, Gonzalez Casanova I, Jones D, Saad O, Ropero AM, Alonso JP](#). Vaccine. 2020.

> Health care providers perspectives about **maternal immunization** in Latin America. [Malik FA, Alonso JP, Sanclemente LN, Vilajeliu A, Gutierrez M, Gonzalez-Casanova I, Jones D, Saad O, Ropero AM, Belizan M](#). Vaccine. 2020.

FERTILITY

> How effective are the non-conventional **ovarian stimulation** protocols in ART? A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Glujovsky D, Pesce R, Miguens M, Sueldo CE, Lattes K, Ciapponi A](#). The Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics. 2020;37(12):2913-28.

> **Endometrial preparation** for women undergoing **embryo transfer** with frozen embryos or embryos derived from donor oocytes. [Glujovsky D, Pesce R, Sueldo C, Quinteiro Retamar AM, Hart RJ, Ciapponi A](#). Cochrane Database Systematic Review. 2020;10:Cd006359.

> **Quality of evidence** matters: is it well reported and interpreted in infertility journals?. [Glujovsky D, Sueldo CE, Bardach A, Del Pilar Valanzasca M, Comandé D, Ciapponi A](#). The Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics 2020;37(2):263-8.

OTHER RESEARCH LINES

> **Surgical site infection** after **gastrointestinal surgery** in children: an international, multicentre, prospective cohort study. [Ofman, G., Pradarelli, B., Caballero, M. T., Bianchi, A., Grimaldi, L. A., Sancilio, A., Duenas, K., Rodriguez, A., Ferrero, F. Ferretti, A., Coviello, S., Ferolla, F. M., Acosta, P. L., Bergel, E., Libster, R., Polack, F. P](#). BMJ Glob Health. 2020;5(12).

PUBLICATIONS

- > The quality of clinical practice guidelines for **preoperative care** using the AGREE II instrument: a systematic review. Ciapponi A, Tapia-López E, Virgilio S, Bardach A. Systematic Review. 2020;9(1):159.
- > Ventriculo-peritoneal shunting devices for **hydrocephalus**. Garegnani L, Franco JV, Ciapponi A, Garrote V, Vietto V, Portillo Medina SA. Cochrane Database Systematic Review. 2020;6(6):Cd012726.
- > **Direct-Acting Antivirals** and **Hepatocellular Carcinoma**: No Evidence of Higher Wait-List Progression or Posttransplant Recurrence. Piñero, F, Boin, I., Chagas, A., Quiñonez, E., Marciano, S., Vilatobá, M., Santos, L., Anders, M., Hoyos Duque, S., Soares Lima, A., Menendez, J., Padilla, M., Poniachik, J., Zapata, R., Maraschio, M., Chong Menéndez, R., Muñoz, L., Arufe, D., Figueroa, R., Mendizabal, M., Hurtado Gomez, S., Stucchi, R., Maccali, C., Vergara Sandoval, R., Bermudez, C., McCormack, L., Varón, A., Gadano, A., Mattera, J., Rubinstein, F., Carrilho, F., Silva, M. Liver Transplantation. 2020;26(5):640-50.
- > Changing Etiologies and Prognostic Factors in **Pediatric Acute Liver Failure**. Mendizabal, M., Dip, M., Demirdjian, E., Lauferman, L., Lopez, S., Minetto, J., Costaguta, A., Rumbo, C., Malla, I., Sanchez, M. C., Halac, E. Cervio, G., Cuarterolo, M., Galoppo, M., Imventarza, O., Bisgniano, L., D'Agostino, D., Rubinstein, F. Liver Transplantation. 2020;26(2):268-75.
- > Short-term exposure to **particulate matter** (PM(10) and PM(2.5)), **nitrogen dioxide** (NO(2)), and **ozone** (O(3)) and all-cause and cause-specific **mortality**: Systematic review and meta-analysis. Orellano P, Reynoso J, Quaranta N, Bardach A, Ciapponi A. Environment International. 2020;142:105876.

“Health is a human right and the governments should help the citizens to attain it ensuring health for everyone. This can only be achieved by investing in universal health coverage, starting with strong primary care services. We also need to work in closer coordination to address the links between poverty, inequity, climate change, health and other challenges”.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
Director of the World Health Organization (WHO)

VALUABLE RESOURCES

Promotions at the CONICET

Five members of the Center for Research on Epidemiology and Public Health (CIESP), the CONICET (Argentine National Scientific and Technical Research Council) Executive Unit with headquarters at the IECS, were promoted in their corresponding categories. We are talking about Drs. [Andrés Pichon-Riviere](#), [Federico Augustovski](#) and [Agustín](#)

[Ciapponi](#), who have become health principal investigators and [Dr. Gabriela Cormick](#), new independent health investigator. [Dr. Ariel Bardach](#), CIESP's Director, was promoted to independent investigator. As a result of their work on research and contribution to public health, [we already have 15](#) investigators who are currently staff members of IECS-CONICET.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

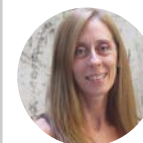
We specially thank with a hug (but a Zoom hug, to be consistent with current times) to those who worked in

Systems: Rodrigo Alonso, Romina Melgarejo and Nicolás Hermida. In scarcely one week, they converted the entire IECS (administrative, research, education and transversal units staff) to "**home office**" so they could continue working in this mode. Their performance and commitment were essential bases that allowed us to continue with all our activities.

INCORPORATIONS

Despite the pandemic, we continued growing! We warmly welcome: [Natalia Hreczuch](#), [Cintia Cejas](#), [Sara Reidel](#), [Samanta Straminsky](#) and [Julieta Spagnolo](#), as well as other [external collaborators](#) to the "IECS" team. And we would like to say "welcome back" to [Prof. Dr. Adolfo Rubinstein](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO...



Bachelor Grisel Jordán. She became member of the Board of Directors. With 22 years working at the IECS, she is a pillar of our institution. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Ezequiel García Elorrio. He was elected President of the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua), an organization devoted to promoting improvement in quality of healthcare worldwide. [Read more.](#)



Drs. Ariel Bardach y Andrea Beratarrechea. ch and Andrea Beratarrechea. They have been chosen as Bernard Lown Scholars at the Harvard's School of Public Health. [Read more.](#)



Bachelor Javier Roberti. He became the first CIESP Post-Doctorate Fellow. He will work in a qualitative study on perception of vaccination in children and the elderly. [Read more.](#)

INTERVIEW WITH VILMA IRAZOLA

“MANY IDEAS FOR RESEARCH COME UP WHEN WE LISTEN TO THE OTHER”

Specialist in Implementation of Strategies to Prevent and Control Chronic Diseases, Dr. Vilma Irazola says she loves to contribute to create knowledge with specific impact on population.

Her parents thought she would be a writer because she loved reading and writing when she was a child. She eagerly read every book at hand. The complete work of Gabriel García Márquez or Pablo Neruda and also the intensity of Alejandra Pizarnik. But she wanted to become a physician. She studied at the National University of Rosario, in the city where she was born, and obtained an Honors Diploma (she is humble asking not to include this in her profile). First, she was clinician, then Cardiologist and later Investigator. Today, Vilma Irazola is one of the eight individuals running IECS. At this institution, she runs the Department

of Research on Chronic Diseases, where she works as Director of two centers (the Center of Excellence in Cardiovascular Health for South America (CESCAS) and the Center for Excellence in Cancer Research (CEDIC). Teacher at heart, she is also Sub-director of University of Buenos Aires, School of Medicine Master's Degree in Clinical Effectiveness and investigator at the CONICET.

How did you change from an individual patient-focused approach to a more collective approach to health?

It was a process. I have always, even as a child, questioned everything. I also did it as physician. After giving every indication, I wonder what was lying behind. I think I was bothersome (laughter). I had many whys with no clear answers. That made me look deeper. For example, it made me see that the effects of treatments were not the same in all the patients. I think that this what made me wonder what happened at population level.



INTERVIEW WITH VILMA IRAZOLA

When a physician does research, maybe stops treating patients, but may influence on the health of thousands. Do you see it that way?

Yes. Absolutely. They are both important. Taking care of an individual patient, but also the tools may impact on a much larger number of people.

What are the features an investigator needs?

Permanent questioning. Not taking anything for granted. Another feature is teamwork. An African proverb says: "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together". And I do believe in this. In our world we are measured by productivity, but you also have to do it fast. If you want to go fast, you have to be individualistic and go forward. But if you want to contribute with something for the benefit of many, you have to do it as a team.

How was research on chronic diseases 10 or 20 years ago?

The concept of implementation research, which is mine, did not exist or had not even been born. There was a large production of knowledge, but little was known about how to implement it in real life. That is new. That you

can investigate how to put all that knowledge into practice to benefit someone specifically, is a huge change

What would you like to investigate more deeply?

I would like to progress towards a comprehensive view of chronic diseases, that usually coexist. Rather than how to help people with hypertension, diabetes or at high cardiovascular risk, the challenge is to create evidence to achieve a more comprehensive management.

You have been a teacher for more than 30 years. What do you like best about it?

I love teaching and giving classes. Students also ask me questions and question things. That is what I like the most. I believe a teacher always learns with the students.

Do you miss the hospital?

Yes. I worked at the University of Buenos Aires School Hospital (Hospital de Clínicas) for 16 years. First, in Internal Medicine and then in Cardiology, as intern at the Coronary Care Unit. Later, I turned to research and teaching. I miss the direct contact with the



Teaching is a passion she has done for three decades.



In a communication activity in Tokyo.



With part of her working team.

INTERVIEW WITH VILMA IRAZOLA

patient. Sometimes, we are working at the health centers and I feel like putting the white gown on.

The CESCAS cohort has a large number of participants (more than 7,000) from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. What do you like value the most about this opportunity?

I really like having my own data in order to make decisions, diagnose situations, identify barriers and opportunities in risk factors for chronic, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and obesity. I also like monitoring the changes in our populations and where we should be heading to. This is very valuable.

Thanks to different research works, you had the chance to travel to very different countries in the world. Of the places you have visited, which had the biggest impact in you?

It is difficult to choose one. Travelling enables learning about other cultures,

other ways of doing things, other visions. For example, I had the privilege of talking and sharing experiences with a pioneer team working with health promoters in Bangladesh or having tea at the house of Doctor Bernard Lown, who has recently died, Nobel Prize of Peace in 1985 and creator of the implantable defibrillator who contributed to saving so many lives.

How does a research idea come up?

It comes up from listening what the other person (a patient, a user, a health provider) considers a difficulty for changing habits or becomes a problem or a barrier for him/her. A classical concept in scientific research is that questions come up from observation. But the kind of research I really love, the one that creates knowledge that results in specific and implementable strategies, comes up definitely when listening to the other people, "the expert is the other person". ●

"An investigator should permanently question him/herself. Not taking anything for granted. And should also have teamwork skills. If you want to contribute with something for the benefit of many, you have to do it as a team."

PERSONAL X-RAY

TRAINING: Physician graduated from the National University of Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina. She is **Specialist in Cardiology and Master in Clinical Effectiveness**, a diploma obtained at the University of Buenos Aires, School of Medicine.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS: *More than 100 journals indexed in PubMed including the BMJ and JAMA.*

A PLACE IN THE WORLD YOU WOULD LIKE TO VISIT: Greece.

A SPORT: None of the traditional ones. Walking alone or in company

A HOBBY: Reading, drawing, painting (with watercolor or acrylic paint)

PREFERRED BOOKS: El Aleph, by Jorge Luis Borges and Sapiens. From Animals to Gods, by Yuval Noah Harari.

ONE MOVIE: Crimes and Misdemeanors by Woody Allen.

FAMILY: Her husband is also a physician. She has two children and they both study artistic careers.

FUNDING

WE WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND WITH OTHER PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDERS.

GOVERNMENTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND FOUNDATIONS:

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United States National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC)
- Eastern Republic of Uruguay's National Resources Fund
- Argentina's Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT)
- EQ-5D EuroQol Research Foundation
- Government of Chile's Ministry of Health
- Uruguay's Ministry of Health
- Argentina's Ministry of Health
- Argentina's National Cancer Institute (INC)
- World Diabetes Foundation (WDF)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Grand Challenges Canada
- UNICEF
- DNDi Latin America
- Children Foundation
- Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

- United States Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH)
- United States Dana Farber/Harvard

Cancer Center

- United States Tulane University
- University of Buenos Aires (UBA) School of Medicine
- United States New York University
- International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcome Research (ISPOR)
- College of Physicians of the Province of Salta (COLMEDSA), Argentina
- Hospital Universitario Austral
- Fundación para la Lucha contra las Enfermedades Neurológicas de la Infancia (FLENI)

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

- Abbott
- AbbVie S.A. Argentina
- Boston Scientific
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Argentina SRL
- Cámara Argentina de Especialidades Medicinales (CAEme)
- Eli Lilly Interamerica Inc. Argentina
- Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Anestesia, Analgesia y Reanimación (FAAAAR)
- Sanofi Espoir Foundation
- Gador
- Genzyme de Argentina S.A.
- Giz – Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Hospital Británico of Uruguay

- Hospital Molinos de Viento of Brazil
- Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)
- Instituto Argentino de Salud y Desarrollo (IASDE)
- Instituto Argentino de Diagnóstico y Tratamiento (IADT)
- Janssen Cilag Farmacéutica S.A.
- Laboratorio Glaxo SmithKline Argentina S.A.
- Novartis Laboratory
- Merck
- Management Sciences for Health (MSH)
- Noble Compañía de Seguros S.A.
- Novo Nordisk Colombia
- Sanatorio Ipena
- Roche S.A.Q.E.I.
- Pfizer

MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS

- AcaSalud
- Jerárquicos Salud (AMPJBON)
- Asesoría Médica del Sistema de Salud del Colegio de Escribanos de La Plata
- Asociación Española Primera de Socorros Mutuos, Uruguay
- Asociación Mutual Médica Villa María
- BASA
- Caja de Abogados de la Plata (CASA) (CASA)
- Centro Asistencial Medicina Privada

- Obra Social Trabajadores Pasteleros, Confiteros, Pizzeros, Heladeros y Alfajeros de la República Argentina (ELEVAR)
- Federación Argentina de Mutuales de Salud (FAMSA)
- Federada Salud
- Fondo Nacional de Recursos de la República Oriental del Uruguay
- Health Group
- Hospital Británico of Buenos Aires
- Hospital Universitario Austral
- Instituto Autárquico Provincial de Obra Social (IAPOS)
- IOSPER
- Medicus
- Obra Social del Personal de Dirección de Sanidad Luis Pasteur
- OMINT
- OSDE
- OSDEPYM
- Obra Social de los Empleados Públicos (OSEP)
- Obra Social de la Federación Argentina Trabajadores de Luz y Fuerza (OSFATLYF)
- Obra Social Personal de Obras y Servicios Sanitarios (OSOSS)
- Prevención Salud
- Servicio Universitario Médico Asistencial (SUMA)
- Swiss Medical Group
- Visitar



IECS
INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL
EFFECTIVENESS AND
HEALTH POLICY



[twitter/iecsarg](https://twitter.com/iecsarg)



[facebook/iecs](https://facebook.com/iecs)



[youtube/
IECS Argentina](https://youtube.com/IECS%20Argentina)



[linkedin/
company/iecs](https://linkedin/company/iecs)



[instagram.com/
iecs_educacion/](https://instagram.com/iecs_educacion/)

www.iecs.org.ar

