



Board of Trustees Meeting  
28 March, 2014

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## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3.1d: Latin America Report**

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### IAPB LATIN AMERICA UPDATE REPORT

#### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS**

The IAPB Latin America office was relocated to Mexico in January 2014.

Many publications and advocacy activities have taken place via the generous support of ORBIS partnering with IAPB, which we will further develop with the new three year cooperation agreement. We would personally like to acknowledge Joan McLeod for extraordinary support and help in all of the project management experience she has brought to the table.

#### **World Sight Day (WSD) 2013**

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WSD garnered impressive attention in the region this past October. A new WSD domain was included on the V2020 Latin America website (<http://www.v2020la.org/WSD2013>), which increased monthly visits from an average of 700 to 2,735 visits. Twelve countries in the region reported WSD activities: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. Cataract, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and refractive error screenings, training in blindness prevention, cataract surgical campaigns, education campaigns, and major media coverage throughout the region were reported.

#### **National Planning Workshops and Related Activities**

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- A workshop to draft an updated national plan for the prevention of blindness in Peru was held in Lima on August 15-16 with the attendance of 65 stakeholders, including V2020, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), ORBIS, CBM, and representatives of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and local eye care programs. This event was mentioned in the last regional update, but results were not yet reported. The strategic framework of the plan includes strategic actions, results needed, and the indicators to measure and monitor progress. The plan will be implemented by the regional health authorities in each region through an Expert Committee with a technical advisor ophthalmologist, and other key stakeholders. An annual operative plan will also be developed. A follow-up workshop is planned for March 13-14.

- A workshop was organized in Montevideo, Uruguay on October 3-5 to update and educate the new members of the National V2020 Committee on V2020 and prevention of blindness with the goal to reconstitute the national committee. There were 10 participants representing V2020 LA, the MoH, the National Society of Ophthalmology, the Lions Clubs, the University, and the technicians carrying a degree in ophthalmology. The workshop was followed by the National Congress of Ophthalmology, an annual meeting of nearly 100 ophthalmologists that was organized by the Department of Ophthalmology of the University on October 4 and 5. We hope that a follow-up National Plan Workshop can be organized for late 2014 with PAHO and the new MoH Eye Health Coordinator and based on the results of the national RAAB soon to be published in the PAHO journal.
- On January 15, 2014, the Ministry of Health of Argentina passed Resolution N° 8/2014, which recognized the approval by the Argentine government of the WHO Global Action Plan (GAP, WHA A66/11) for 2014-2019 and the new government mandate to report the annual Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR), a global indicator of the WHO GAP.
- In the summer, a major updated of the National Eye Health Plan in the Dominican Republic under the leadership of Dr. Juan Battle, regional Chair for LA, bringing together after many years, many stakeholders and members of the PBL Committee. A follow-up advocacy visit by Dr. Juan Carlos Silva later this year will ensure momentum for final adoption and ensure government funding.

## Research and Publications

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- The Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF) Research Project: Phase 2 Pilot Testing of Global Indicators in Latin America Region is underway. The project was approved in October 2013 with a budget of \$87,000, which includes support from ORBIS, and is managed by Strategic Solutions, Inc, in partnership with IAPB and with the participation of PAHO. The objective is to establish a regional mechanism to collect the new WHO GAP Indicators with the collaboration of MoHs, VISION 2020 Committees, national professional societies and regulatory bodies, NGOs, and industry representatives in 4 countries: Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, and Honduras. The secondary objectives of this project are to evaluate the feasibility of data collection and the reliability of the indicators and adequacy of the metrics used to define the indicators. The First Latin American Global Indicators in Prevention of Blindness Workshop will be held in Lima, Peru March 10-12. With ORBIS support, Peru will have their own workshop to further develop the implementation of their National Plan and include the GAP indicators
- The Honduras RAAB concluded in December. The Argentina and Panama RAABs will finish in Q2 2014. The Venezuela RAAB will begin in the second quarter of 2014.

- The Argentina CSR paper will be published in first 2014 issue of *Arquivos Brasileiros de Oftalmologia*. The study will also be presented at the Unite for Sight Conference New Haven, CT in April 2014.
- The Latin American data of the 2010 Global Burden of Disease Study was published in February: Leasher JL, Lansingh VL, Flaxman SR, et al. On behalf of the Vision Loss Expert Group. Prevalence and causes of vision loss in Latin America and the Caribbean: 1990-2010. *Br J Ophthalmol* 2014;doi10.1136/bjophthalmol-2013-304013. [Epub ahead of print].
- The results of the 2011 RAAB in Paraguay that served to follow-up on the 1999 national survey were published in October: Duerksen R, Limburg H, Lansingh VC, Silva JC. Review of blindness and visual impairment in Paraguay: Changes between 1999 and 2011. *Ophthalmic Epidemiol.* 2013;20(5):301-7.
- The November Quarterly Bulletin featured Low Vision (LV). The January 2014 bulletin featured Refractive errors in children.
- An article on glaucoma and IAPB/V2020 Mexico by Dr Jesús Jiménez Román was published in *Imagenóptica* (vol 15, 2013)
- We published a 56 page edition of the CEHJ in Spanish with selected papers from the Glaucoma International Edition and several regional commissioned papers, with more than 8000 copies distributed during the biannual PAAO meeting, nearly 1000 during the Bascom Palmer annual meeting and also available online at <http://www.revistasaludocular.org/13ra/>. A few of these papers were reprinted in *Imagenóptica* (vol 16, 2014).
- An article on cataract surgical barriers in the Americas was submitted and accepted by the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. It is currently undergoing revisions in response to the reviewers comments. Two book chapters were submitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Cristalino de las Américas*; one chapter addressed V2020 and another chapter addressed the epidemiology of the prevention of blindness in Latin America. The Big Mac paper is under review by the *Revista Mexicana de Oftalmología*. The cost of blindness will be submitted to Lancet Global Health in March 2014.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE FORWARD THE EYE HEALTH AGENDA IN THE REGION

Mexico has been selected to be the host of a Global IAPB World Sight Day event. It is hoped that the event will coincide with the WHO certification of the elimination of blinding trachoma in Mexico. Plans are also underway to reactivate the national committee for the prevention of blindness and to develop a new national plan.

Visualiza has agreed to help us coordinate the V2020 Latin America Congress in Guatemala City, Guatemala in early October (dates to be confirmed). While in



Guatemala, we will assist country representatives with their pending RAAB study that will be instrumental in developing a new national plan.

The Francisco Contreras award on Prevention of Blindness was established this year by IAPB LA and handed jointly by the PAAO during the PAAO meeting in Brazil by Dr. Juan Batlle and Dr. Mark Mannis, President of the PAAO. The first recipient was very appropriately Dr. Francisco Contreras himself in recognition for his activities in the field for several decades, he generously donated the accompanying prize money so that a young ophthalmologist can attend the V2020 LA Congress later this year.