

10th Binational Health Week Inaugural Event and Binational Policy Forum on Migrant Health Guanajuato, México 2010

The X Annual Binational Health Week kicked off this year with the X Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health, which took place in Guanajuato, Mexico on October 3th to 5th. Forum participants included members from community agencies, government officials, foundations, and universities that came together to discuss the challenges facing immigrant communities.

Forum topics included US health reform, binational health insurance, chronic and infectious diseases, oral, mental, and occupational health, health and human rights, partnerships in migrant health as well as civil society organizations and migrant health.

This 2010 forum convened key stakeholders from the United States, Mexico, Canada, South and Central American countries to discuss (im)migrant health challenges and to explore unique opportunities to work collaboratively to improve the health and well-being of this population.

This two-day event was co-sponsored by the Secretariat of Health and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the National Population Council, the Government of Guanajuato, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru, Honduras, Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador, the U.S. Department of Human and Health Services, Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, from UC Berkeley, School of Public Health among others.



Sequence of events

The forum kicked off with a welcoming reception held in the Expo Guanajuato Bicentennial. Dr. Aguirre Torres, secretary of health as well as Dr. Cordova, federal secretary of health and Xochitl Castaneda, Health Initiative of the Americas Director, welcome the representatives of the participating countries and agencies. The reception allowed participants to meet and greet some of the figures participating in the forum as well as gave them the opportunity to create networks that will benefit them in future collaborations to come.

The inaugural ceremony opened at the magnificent Teatro Juarez with the participation of key figures which included the First Lady of Mexico Margarita Zavala; Mexican Secretary of Health, Jose Angel Cordova Villalobos; Governor of Guanajuato, Juan Manuel Oliva Ramirez; Senior Vice President of Health Sciences and Services, University of California, John Stobo; *Colombia Nos Une* director Alvaro Calderon; Ambassador Julian Ventura, undersecretary for North America, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs as well as Guanajuato mayor, Niceforo Guerrero Reynoso.

The ceremony included the official kick off of Mexico's National Health Week with the application of vaccines to a toddler, a child and an adult given by Mrs. Zavala and Dr. Cordova.



A **Plenary Session** followed the inauguration, led by Dr. Cordova Villalobos and Governor Oliva Ramirez that reviewed the national and state strategy on migrant health.

Panel of Experts: Migrant Women's health

The panel was moderated by Rosario Alberro (Health Initiative of the Americas), who stressed the importance of collaborative research on migration and health from a binational perspective. Paula Leite (CONAPO) presented a special report on Migrant Women's Health prepared by the National Population Council of Mexico in collaboration with the University of California. Nelly Salgado (Mexico's National Institute of Public Health) addressed the issue of migrant women and mental health, followed by Marc Schenker (UC Davis) who in turn talked about migrant women's occupational health challenges. A final intervention from Tonatiuh Guillén (Colegio de la Frontera Norte) presented data of a survey on border health indicators.

After the panel, participants attended a lunch provided by the Guanajuato Ministry of Health at Meson de San Antonio.

Concurrent Workshops

The afternoon was broken into work sessions that took place at a location named Casa del Conde Rul. The work sessions offered participants the opportunity to view presentations by key figures in the topics as well as gave them the space to discuss the challenges and concerns of this vulnerable population. This year, the Binational Forum operated on the basis of a new scheme to follow up and position five key issues on political and social agendas. These issues will include the planning of specific actions in health services, training, research and public policy which results aimed to be presented during the 2011 Forum.

Health Systems

Coordinators: Gil Ojeda, UC Berkeley, and Armando Pérez Cabrera, Secretariat of Health of Guanajuato

US Health Reform

Panelists: Adrian Davila, Secretariat of Health of Mexico; Carmela Castellano, California Primary Care Association

Migrant Health Problems

Chronic diseases

Coordinators: Nelly Salgado, National Institute of Public Health of Mexico and Ricardo Jiménez, Panamerican Health Organization.

Panelists: Simon Barquera, National Institute of Public Health of Mexico; Armando Barriguete, Secretariat of Health of Mexico; Betsy Rodriguez, Centers for Disease Control.

Infectious diseases

Coordinators: Gudelia Rangel, El Colegio de la frontera Norte and Tom Donohoe, University of California, Los Angeles.

Panelists: Jose de Jesus Mendez, Secretariat of Health of San Luis Potosi; Nicole Fitzpatrick, Centers for Disease Control.

Oral Health

Coordinators: Mary Jean McGrath, Universidad Dental de La Salle and Francisco Ramos-Gomez, University of California, Los Angeles.

Panelists: Carlos Saenz Beard, Secretariat of Health of Mexico; Luis Dominicus, California Dental Association.

Health and Human Rights

Coordinators: Bernardo Fernandez del Castillo, Secretariat of Health of Mexico and Robert Valdez, University of New Mexico

Human Rights of Migrant Populations

Panelists: Jane Garcia, La Clínica de la Raza; Antonio Benítez, Mexican Federal Assembly

Relevant aspects in the northern and southern borders, including the transit for Mexicans and Central Americans

Panelists: Patricio Carballo, International Organization of Migration; Phillipe Lamy, World Health Organization.

Partnerships and Programs on Migrant Health

Coordinators: Eduardo Jaramillo, Secretariat of Health of Mexico and Xochitl Castañeda, University of California, Berkeley.

Strategy for Comprehensive Health Care for Migrants

Panelists: Javier Diaz de Leon, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Alfonso Rodriguez, Centers for Disease Control.

Participation of Civil Society in the Health Care of Migrants

Coordinators: Mercedes Juan, Fundación Mexicana para la Salud, and Rosario Alberro, University of California, Berkeley.

The Role of Foundations

Panelists: Jesus Kumate Fundación de los Centros de Integración Juvenil; Martha Esquivel, Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico; Oscar Lanza, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan.

Following the workshops, participants attended a Gala Dinner offered by State of Guanajuato's Governor, Juan Manuel Oliva at the Hacienda San Gabriel de la Barrera. A special recognition on the field of migration and health was presented to Mario Riestra, president of Fundación Paisano and to Jane Garcia, on behalf of Robert Ross, president of The California Endowment.

The Forum continued on Tuesday morning with a second round of work sessions which included the following:

Health Systems

Coordinators: Gil Ojeda, UC Berkeley, and Armando Pérez Cabrera, Secretariat of Health of Guanajuato

Binational Health Insurance

Panelists: David García Junco, Secretariat of Health of Mexico; Raul Hinojosa, University of California, Los Angeles.

Migrant Health Problems

Mental Health

Coordinators: Nelly Salgado, National Institute of Public Health of Mexico and Ricardo Jiménez, Panamerican Health Organization.

Panelists: Armida Granados, Secretariat of Health of Mexico and Ma. Teresa Cerqueira, Panamerican Health Organization.

Occupational Health

Coordinators: Jorge Morales Camino, National Autonomous University of Mexico and Marc Schenker, University of California, Davis.

Panelist: Susan Teran, University of California, Berkeley and Rafael Avante, Secretariat of Work of Mexico.

Health and Human Rights

Coordinators: Bernardo Fernandez del Castillo, Secretariat of Health of Mexico and Robert Valdez, University of New Mexico

Vulnerable Groups: women, children, elderly and disabled.

Panelists: Miguel Moctezuma, Autonomous University of Zacatecas; Rogelio Saenz, Texas A&M University.

Partnerships and Programs on Migrant Health

Coordinators: Eduardo Jaramillo, Secretariat of Health of Mexico and Xochitl Castañeda, University of California, Berkeley.

Strategic Alliances between nations, public and private organizations to promote the Health of Migrants

Panelists: Javier Diaz de Leon, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Alfonso Rodriguez, Centers for Disease Control.

Participation of Civil Society in the Health Care of Migrants

Coordinators: Cuahutemoc Valdez, Fundación Mexicana para la Salud, and Rosario Alberro, University of California, Berkeley.

The Response of community organizations to the health needs of migrants

Panelists: Martha Estrella, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center; Maria Aguilar, Patronato Pro Niños.

Closing remarks were addressed by Dr. Jorge Aguirre Torres, Secretary of Health of Guanajuato, Dr. Jose Angel Cordova, Mexican Secretary of Health, and Miguel Osuna Millan, Head of the Health Commission at the Federal Mexican Assembly.

**X Policy Forum on Migration and Health Participant Profile
Guanajuato, Mexico
2010**

- Number of participants:** 800
- Number of Agencies:** 249 agencies: international, federal, state, local, and private entities; universities, foundations, and community organizations.
- International Delegation:** 242 participants from 4 foreign countries: United States, Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia.
- U.S. States:** 18 states represented
- Mexican States:** 19 states represented
- Number of Universities:** 44 universities represented.
- Foundations:** 19 Foundations
- International Organizations:** 5 International organizations (World Health Organization, Panamerican Health Organization, Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica, International Organization of Migrations, Project Concern International)
- Community Organizations:** 135 community agencies, including health clinics and hospitals, human rights organizations, and nongovernmental entities.

