

Chronic Disease Surveillance in the Americas: How academia contributes to the endeavour

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Conflictos de interés: Los autores declaran no tener conflictos de interés alguno.

Editorial

The Americas' Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance (AMNET) is a non-for-profit organization which has the mission to promote a dynamic exchange of integrated efforts between individuals, academic institutions and government towards the development and enhancement of surveillance, prevention and control of chronic diseases and their risk factors in the Americas and in the Caribbean.

AMNET has more than 500 individual members from all countries of the Americas and from most of the Caribbean, and 15 institutions of higher education. Furthermore, most (94%) of current individual members of AMNET hold an academia affiliation; seven out of 10 members within a school or college of Medicine, and more than half within a school of public health. This strong alliance between academia and AMNET has allowed a strong and active participation in crucial efforts towards the initiation, development, and enhancement of surveillance efforts in the Region of the Americas such as in the Field Epidemiology Training Program conducted in Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia.

In addition, AMNET members have actively participated in regional and national surveys conducted in the US-Mexico Border, the Costa Rican risk factor survey, the project VIGIA in Argentina, the Risk Factor Survey of the Valle del Cauca and Cali in Colombia, the Risk Factor Survey in Sucre, Bolivia, the Risk Factor Survey of the Estado Lara in Venezuela, and the Chronic Diseases Surveillance Capacity Assessment among six CARICOM countries in the Caribbean.

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AMNET has also conducted uninterrupted annual conferences since its inception in 2003 in more than ten countries, six of them have been hosted by institutions of higher education including the Universidad Evangélica de El Salvador in El Salvador; the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Argentina; the Universidad del Valle in Colombia; the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila in Mexico; the Universidad Técnica del Norte in Ecuador; and the American University of Antigua in Antigua & Barbuda. Every poster and oral presentation at AMNET conferences, as well as all manuscripts published by AMNET members on topics related to chronic disease surveillance have included at least one co-author affiliated with an institution of higher education.

In conclusion, all countries of the Americas and most from the Caribbean have AMNET members. Most AMNET members are affiliated with academia and have provided technical support to significant chronic disease surveillance activities in the Americas. AMNET should be considered as an excellent resource to promote dynamic and integrated efforts between individuals, academic institutions and government towards the assessment, prevention and control of risk factors in the Region.