



## Welcome to the June Edition!

*By Gloria Coe, Guest Editor*

### Let's Get Involved

Not since the 1902 founding of the forerunner to the Pan American Health Organization and the subsequent 1948 founding of the World Health Organization has the future of the global public health ecosystem faced so many unique and multifaceted challenges.

**As the Association of Former Staff Members**, we can strengthen the public's understanding of the critically important role PAHO plays in regional and national health initiatives: its work, broad influence, and historical achievements on health and wellbeing.

The Association encourages its members to continue to support, be involved, and influence policy and decision makers across all levels of our lives: in our homes; our places of worship; at community, departmental, state, and national levels; and in both public and private spheres. PAHO's history, work, and commitment to health and wellbeing resounds across the decades and must be told and repeated. Its strengths, potential, and reach are too important, and need to be broadly understood. We must get involved.

To this end, we choose to galvanize our members to action and, welcome articles by former staff that emphasize and focus on PAHO's strengths, importance, reputation, and extensive work since its founding 124 years ago. We must reinforce the organization's impact formulating regional health policies and its partnerships with ministries of health, universities, NGOs, news organizations, and journalists. Let's share PAHO's role in the Americas through the lens of our personal experience and knowledge.

Among our greatest joys was the honor of working on behalf of the peoples of the Americas as PAHO staff. In this issue of our newsletter, we present our first collection of articles written by association members. We ask you to share them to raise public awareness of PAHO's role in the health and wellbeing of the people of the Americas.

We are grateful to Alberto Concha-Eastman (see page 20), Gladys Ghisays (see page 21), and Julio Burbano Diago (see page 22), members of our AFSM Colombia Chapter, for their articles on their personal experience with and their work for the Organization.

**We hope to hear from you and look forward to receiving your article.**

### It Takes a Village

We again thank Marilyn Rice and Hernan Perdomo for their generous support and detailed work on our Newsletter during the previous 14 Years.

We extend special thanks to colleagues who, for the first time, generously accepted our request for assistance to prepare our June 2026 Newsletter:

- Vilma Gawryszewski studied the layout practices of German Perdomo over the previous 14 years and more recently of Sonia Mey. Special thanks to Vilma for her support, attention to detail, and willingness to accept the responsibility of layout.
- Roxane Salvatierra translated many articles from English to Spanish. We extend our grateful thanks for her generous support and quality translations.

Yvette Holder prepared, analyzed and wrote the report of our reader survey.

[https://www.afsmpaho.com/files/ugd/6814f4\\_9c7cc1b5c1314d16a711da897ac43ce3.pdf](https://www.afsmpaho.com/files/ugd/6814f4_9c7cc1b5c1314d16a711da897ac43ce3.pdf)

Based on the recommendations and comments of our readers, the Newsletter Team, with Yvette's support, prepared Guidelines for our Authors.

[https://www.afsmpaho.com/files/ugd/6814f4\\_ef290c2e49094f859988522ed55ed7c7.pdf](https://www.afsmpaho.com/files/ugd/6814f4_ef290c2e49094f859988522ed55ed7c7.pdf)

Thanks to the continued support of the Board and members of our Association for their interesting thought-provoking articles on topics such as Staff Health Insurance, the UN Pension Fund, healthy longevity, healthy ageing, care of the ageing, hiking in Ecuador and Peru, public health research and liming in the Caribbean, PAHO's role in the Americas, and others.

We urge you to write and send us articles, photographs, poems, artistic contributions to publish in our Newsletter.

---

## Welcome to our new members!

**Alba Maria Ropero Alvarez – Colombia**

**Leo Nederveen – Colombia**

**David Joseph O'Regan – United Kingdom**

**Luis Gabriel Cuervo Amore - Colombia**