

Association of Former WHO Staff Members (AFSM)

welcomes former staff of UNAIDS, UNICC, UNITAID and WHO

At your side since 1989
1000+ members in 80+ countries

Keeping you

In touch

With your Organization
Invitations to events
Directory of members

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Health Insurance
Pensions
Influenza vaccinations
Advice

and Informed

Quarterly News magazine
Key issues and events



www.who.int/formerstaff

aoms@who.int



*ASSOCIATION OF FORMER WHO STAFF MEMBERS
ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS DE L'OMS*

- **Executive Committee of 12 members**
- **Monthly meetings of Executive Committee**
- **Elections every even year**
- **General Assembly every odd year**

WHO offers:

- **Office**
- **Meeting rooms**
- **Printing and mailing facilities**



QUARTERLY News

The magazine of the Association of Former WHO Staff Members (AFSM)

Supporting former staff and helping them to stay in touch and informed



To celebrate this year's International Women's Day, we publish an article on Kathleen Drew-Baker (1901–1957) whose research at the University of Manchester helped save the Japanese sushi industry. This illustration is an artwork by Owen Davey, created for the University. See page 11

NEWS FROM FORMER WHO STAFF MEMBERS' GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD

News from around the world

AFSM-PAHO/AMRO: The Newsletter of September 2020 has been published, unsurprisingly with much of this issue again taken up with Covid-19 and its continuing devastation.

The editorial by Hernán Rosenberg and Germán Perdomo reflects upon the challenges facing their Association of being as inclusive as possible and responding to the needs of members in widely disparate national scenarios. Forming more local chapters is one solution and the Board offers its assistance in doing so.

Following the editorial, Carol Collado writes on Health Insurance and Pension issues, with news, updates, advice, and warnings to be wary of misinformation about Covid-19, emphasizing the message that this virus is going to be a serious threat to all of us for the foreseeable future.

The Newsletter continues with an article on Mental Health in the Time of Covid-19, by Martha Peláez and Gloria Coe who have reviewed key protective behaviours that seniors can embrace while living through Covid-19. It is well worth visiting the newsletter website to read this and other articles (*see link below*).

Ana María Febres-Perdomo publishes an open letter she wrote to her children, now that they have given her grandchildren and she has the time to do this. It is followed by the "Where are they now?" series, this one by Loraine Reid, who after retirement has remained extremely active.

In their article, Covid-19: An experience, lived and learned, Maricel Manfredi and her friend and neighbour in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Mari de Vidal, talk about protection measures instituted and the latter about her experience of being infected early on in the pandemic. Between them they recall and recount the episode, and lessons learned.

A tribute to a PAHO colleague, Helena Espinosa Estrepto by Gustavo Mora, expands upon a message from the Colombian Minister of Health, Fernando Ruiz, who, in his message for *The Day of the Public Health Worker*, on 26 August, affirmed that the contribution of Dr Helena Espinosa represents the best of Public Health.

The issue concludes with a reprint of Dr David Cohen's article on Cardiac Coherence. (*QNT 120*)

An interesting and informative edition which we recommend you to access online. The Newsletters can be read online in English at <https://www.afsmpaho.com/newsletters> and Spanish at <https://www.afsmpaho.com/newsletters-spanish>
Keith Wynn

WHO Retirees' Representative in Scandinavia: Art in the time of Covid. There are many galleries and art clubs in practically every town in Denmark, and in my area, there are several art clubs to which I belong and even a studio where members can paint as often as they like for a reasonable monthly payment.

One of my friends and former colleague in WHO/EURO, the talented Stig Guldhammer has been painting for many years, he is a member of the same art clubs as myself. Stig paints primarily abstract works of art utilizing acrylic, but also adds a mixture of various media. (*Jill's work on the back cover page, and from page 33 onwards in the digital edition of this newsletter*).

Despite the pandemic the usual autumn exhibitions have taken place, one local and one further afield. My exhibition at the local library attracted attention but only one drawing sold, possibly because there are so many exhibitions, all of them showing talented artists. However, 127 visitors was a good turnout



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Our problems

- **Getting more retirees to join**
- **Getting more good candidates for the Committee**
- **Getting more email addresses and how to serve those without them**
- **Increasing workload**
 - **Increasing collaboration with WHO**
 - **Chasing unreturned CEs**
 - **New initiatives**

**Former staff are still part of the WHO family
and should still consider it as their home.
Retirement does not break the relationship**

Dr Tedros (October 2017)