

Congress of Telehealth Region of the Americas 2016

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PRESENTATION

The National Center of Technological Excellence in Health establishes permanent coordination with the national and international bodies dedicated to medical devices, clinical practice guides, telehealth and evaluation of health technologies for the exchange of information and continuous participation. The training for the telehealth professionals is one of the most important pillars in the projects and programs of this nature.

The Congress of Telehealth Region of the Americas 2016 was an area of integration, dissemination of policies and instruments for the implementation of Telehealth, it was held in the City of Durango, Mexico from 20 to 22 July. Experts from academia, the public sector, national and international institutions were brought together.

The event was organized by the National Center of Technological Excellence in Health of the Ministry of Health of Mexico in coordination with the Pan American Health Organization and the Health Services of the state of Durango.

It counted on an academic program of four days, integrated by 2 pre-congress courses and 3 days of academic activity. It was made up of 10 lectures, 17 presentations, 19 plenary sessions, 11 thematic tables. Two meetings were held with National Coordinators of National Telehealth, as well as with the Interinstitutional wGroup of Medical Equipment and Telemedicine. A technological exposure zone was integrated with the objective of presenting technological advances in medical equipments linked to the telemedicine.

Among the pre-congress courses was the participation of international experts from the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Damián Vázquez and Dr. David Novillo who spoke about the writing of scientific articles and digital literacy respectively.

The topics covered:

- National and international trends in the use of Technologies in Telehealth;
- Normativity and Regulation in Telehealth,
- The Telehealth; impact on health care services in regions of high marginalization and population dispersion;
- Telehealth: effective use of health resources;
- Instruments and policies in Telehealth;
- Physical infrastructure and equipment in Telehealth.

RESULTS

The Pan American Health Organization took the framework of the Congress so that through Dr. David Novillo the launch of the publication "Definition of indicators for Telemedicine projects as a tool for the reduction of health inequities: Analysis document and results of a community of practice". The participation of Mr. Adrián Pacheco was highlighted at the round table "Policies in Telehealth: Governance", a project coordinated by the Pan American Health Organization, Peru, Colombia and Mexico was designed.

Several round tables took place during the Congress; in one of them the tendencies in Telehealth, moderated by the Mtra. Miriam Silva Flores, Deputy Director of Telemedicine at CENETEC-Salud, where Dr. Álvaro Margolis, Luis Ary Messina and Alaneir de Fatima dos Santos discussed about the future of telehealth in which programs and projects of this nature are focused on the patient.

The participation of leading panelists with health research topics was noted through Dr. Silvio Vega of Medical Microbiology & Tropical Medicine, Dr. Christopher Stephens Rhodes, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Natural Sciences of UNAM, the PhD. Arnaldo Jélvez, Associate Professor at the University of Bio-Bio in Concepción Chile and Rebeca Ortiz, Chief of the Department of Continuing Education at the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases.

The results of the third global survey on e-health were part of the conferences presented during the event through the Mtra. Begoña Sagastuy, consultant of OPS.

The state telehealth coordinators and opinion leaders from various institutions were a crucial part of the event as it is through them that the actions are carried out that have repercussions on national projects.

Among other activities of the Congress were made available of the attendees the 12 Free Work related to the use of telehealth in Latin American Countries, at the end of the event were rewarded the 2 best ones, being these “Blood glucose monitoring in diabetic clients users of a Mobile Emergency of Montevideo, Uruguay “and” Diploma of Public Health Services Nayarit, Mexico. “

The attendance was very nourished, with a total of 633 people both national and international. The countries represented at the event were: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Spain, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

PERSPECTIVES OF FUTURE

As a next step after the Congress, we will coordinate the Implementation and Follow-up of Projects and Programs of Telehealth at the national level, improving effective access in the Health Sector, for this coordinates and promotes the appropriate incorporation and use of the Telemedicine applications, Telediagnóstico, Mobile technologies through the development of policies and instruments in the field of Telehealth. We will collaborate in the field of remote health-care, medical technology and electronic applications, with national and international organizations, national and international universities, specialized research centers and government agencies, to work on projects of Telehealth, offering recommendations to national institutions.

This event has been held since 2012 with various offices throughout the Mexican Republic, being a space to strengthen the development of Telehealth programs that favor the effective access to health services.

The electronic link where the material for consultation and download of the event information is available is: <http://cenetec.mx/congreso-telesalud/semblanzas/>



Figure 1: Inaugural Session of the Congress of Telehealth

Participants in the last editions:		
2016	Durango city	633
2015	Vallarta, Jalisco	800
2014	Nuevo Leon	828

Table 1: The numbers of the congress