



Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
Department of Global Health



Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
September 10 – 12, 2025
Plenary Sessions

Day 1: Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Opening Ceremony

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Welcome Remarks Dr. Carlos Espinal Director, Global Health Consortium / Department of Global Health Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, Florida International University, USA Master of Ceremony: Ms. Gloria Zuccardi Executive Director, Colombian Society of Pediatrics, Colombia Inaugural Messages Dr. Rafael Navarro Director, District Administrative Department of Health (DADIS), Colombia Dr. Fernando Navarro PAHO/WHO Representative in Colombia Dr. Tomás R. Guilarte Dean, Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work Florida International University, USA Dr. Rajiv Chowdhury Chair, Department of Global Health Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work Florida International University, USA Dr. Mauricio Guerrero President, Colombian Society of Pediatrics, Colombia

Day 1: Wednesday, September 10th, 2025
Plenary Sessions

Advances in Alzheimer's Disease
Moderator: Dr. Carlos Espinal (FIU, USA)

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Tribute to Dr. Francisco Lopera: the man, the physician, the researcher Neuroscience Group of Antioquia, University of Antioquia, Colombia	Dr. Tomás R. Guilarte (FIU, USA) Lic. Alejandra Ruiz (University of Antioquia, Colombia)
	TSPO and neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's disease: a biomarker and therapeutic target	Daniel Martínez (FIU, USA)
	The role of diabetes in the metabolic pathway toward Alzheimer's and related dementias	Dr. José Alejandro Luschinger (Columbia University, USA)
	Prevention of Alzheimer's disease: Insights from resistance genes	Dr. David Aguillón (University of Antioquia, Colombia)
	Discussion and Q&A	
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Break	

Global Health Challenges
Moderator: Dr. Francisco Becerra (FIU, Mexico)

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.	The problem of science: Lack of trust or loss of interest?	Dr. Heidi Larson (Vaccine Confidence Project, UK) <i>(virtual)</i>
	Disease elimination in the Americas	Dr. Thais dos Santos (PAHO/WHO, USA)
	Resistance 2.0: The role of artificial intelligence in the fight against superbugs. Innovation made real.	Dr. Iván Felipe Gutiérrez (SCP, SLIPE, Colombia)
	Discussion and Q&A	
1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<i>Lunch box delivery (lunch in room)</i>	

Day 2: Thursday, September 11th, 2025

Climate Change and Human Health

Moderators: Dr. Byomkesh Talukder (Florida International University, USA)
Dr. Eduardo de la Vega (Stanford University, USA)

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Climate change and noncommunicable diseases: An intriguing link	Dr. Rajiv Chowdhury (FIU, USA)
	From evidence to action: Lessons from the <i>Lancet Countdown</i> on health and climate change in Latin America	Dra. Taissa Vila (The Lancet Regional Health-Americas, Brazil)
	Citizen science, climate change, and health	Dr. Abby C. King (Stanford University, USA)

Health and Healthy Aging

Moderator: Dr. Robinson Cuadros (COMLAT, Colombia)

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:20 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Challenges and opportunities for healthy longevity	Dr. Carlos Alberto Cano (Pontifical Javeriana University, Colombia)
	Tribute to Dr. Enrique Vega	
10:55 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Break	

Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence in Health

Moderator: Dr. Martha Lucía Ospina (Mederi, Colombia)

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Introduction	Dr. Marcelo D'Agostino (PAHO/WHO, USA)
	Advances in digital health and artificial intelligence in health	Dr. Juan José Escalante (PAHO/WHO, Colombia)

Global Health Challenges

Moderator: Dr. Martha Lucía Ospina (Mederi, Colombia)

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:45 am. – 12:55 p.m.	Antimicrobial resistance: Advances in PROA programs	Dr. María Virginia Villegas (Universidad del Bosque, Colombia)
	“One Health”: From concept to implementation	Dr. Alfonso J. Rodríguez-Morales (SLAMVI, ACIN, Colombia)
	Diagnostic disparities in Latin America regarding multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria	Dr. Germán Esparza (Javeriana University / PAHO/WHO, Colombia)
12:55 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	<i>Lunch box delivery (lunch in room)</i>	

Day 3: Friday, September 12th, 2025

Noncommunicable Diseases: Primary Care and Surveillance Framework

Moderator: Dr. Francisco Becerra
(GHC/DGH, RSCPH&SW FIU, Mexico)

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:15 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	Introduction	
	PAHO’s conceptual framework on the integration of noncommunicable diseases in public health surveillance: An essential public health function	Dra. Roberta Caixeta (OPS/OMS, EE. UU.)
	Integration of NCDs in primary health care: Challenges and opportunities	Dra. Paula Andrea Díaz Valencia (Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia)
	Expert Opinion: Roundtable	Dra. Roberta Caixeta (OPS/OMS, EE. UU.) Dr. Rajiv Chowdhury (FIU, EE.UU.)
	Audience Discussion & Conclusions	Dr. Alex Alarcón (Escuela de Salud Pública, Universidad de Chile, Chile)

Current Situation in Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Vaccines

Moderator: Dr. Edwin Asturias (University of Colorado, USA)

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:50 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Global situation of measles: Are we going back in time?	Dr. Yvonne Maldonado (Stanford University, USA)
10:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Break	

Health Policies

Moderator: Dr. Edwin González (University of Antioquia, Colombia)

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:25 a.m. -10:50 a.m.	Maternal and child health: Experiences in La Guajira, Colombia	Dr. Luis Jorge Hernández (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia)
10:50 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Health systems in Latin America and global health	Dr. Alex Alarcón (School of Public Health, University of Chile)

International Vaccine Symposium: Challenges in Immunizations

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:15 a.m. – 12: 45 p.m.	Vaccines in Latin America Benefits and impact of scientific partnerships in vaccine development Dr. María Elena Botazzi (Baylor College of Medicine, USA) Innovations in vaccine production in Colombia Dr. Jorge Osorio (Vaxthera, Colombia) Dr. Leonardo Arregoces (Bogotá Bio, Colombia) New actors in vaccination in Latin America Dr. Pilar Rubio (Biological E, Colombia)	Dr. Pío López (CEIP, Colombia)
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch box delivery (lunch in room)</i>	
1:00 p.m-1:30 p.m.	Vaccination laws in Latin America Results from the FIU expert working group study Dr. Marisa Aizenberg (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)	Dr. Francisco Becerra (GHC/DGH, RSCPH&SW, FIU, Mexico)

	Dr. Ignacio Ibarra (PAHO/WHO, USA)	
1:30 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.	Panorama actual y barreras para la erradicación de la poliomielitis Dr. Edwin Asturias (Universidad de Colorado, EE.UU.)	Dra. Luiza Helena Falleiros-Arlant (SLIPE, Brasil)
1;55 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Inmunización materna: avances, innovación e impacto en enfermedades prevenibles por vacunación Dra. Flor Muñoz (Hospital de Niños de Texas, EE.UU.)	Dr. Roberto Debbag (SLV, SLIPE, Argentina)
2:30 p.m.	Palabras de cierre	Dr. Carlos Espinal (FIU, EE.UU.)