



## Assessing researchers with a focus on research integrity

World Conference on Research Integrity 2019



More than 500 participants will gather in Hong Kong on June 2–5 for the sixth World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI). One of the ambitions of the WCRI is to advance research integrity globally by setting standards and agreeing on principles of organising and conducting research. The Singapore Statement, an outcome of the second WCRI in 2010, highlighted four principles and 14 professional responsibilities for researchers and others involved in the research enterprise. The Montreal Statement, developed as part of the third WCRI in 2013, focused on specific challenges for research collaborations.

The sixth WCRI aims to contribute to reforming the way that researchers are assessed. A draft of the *Hong Kong Manifesto for Assessing Researchers: Fostering Research Integrity* was posted on the conference website on April 11 and is open for comment for the next 3 weeks. The current approach to research assessment, which is prevalent in many academic institutions and countries, is inadequate at best and creates perverse incentives for poor research conduct at worst. The approach involves counting

publications without real quality assessment beyond the journal impact factor (a measure that says nothing about a specific paper's relevance or quality), and adding up an individual's grant income. The Hong Kong Manifesto suggests six principles, which might form the basis of a new more comprehensive way of assessing researchers with a special focus on strengthening and rewarding research integrity. The principles include: societal need as a goal for research; responsible indicators that broadly reflect the contribution to the research enterprise; the need to publish or report all research completely and transparently; a culture of open research; the differentiated recognition of different research types, such as exploratory research and replication; and the inclusion of other contributions to the research enterprise, such as peer review and improving the research environment. A further revised Manifesto will then be discussed at the conference in focus group sessions. It is hoped that a final version will be widely endorsed as a first step to implementing these principles. ■ *The Lancet*

For the **Hong Kong Manifesto draft** see <http://www.wcri2019.org/index/programme/focus-tracks>



## Universal health care in 21st century Americas

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Despite considerable progress, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) estimates that 30% of the population of the Americas still do not have access to the health care they need because of multifaceted barriers. On April 9, leaders, including Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, PAHO director Carissa Etienne, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, gathered with academics, activists, and representatives of social movements in Mexico City to hear the report of the Commission on Universal Health in the 21st Century.

The Commission emphasises that achieving health for all in the Americas will only be possible by ensuring effective financing, enshrining the right to health for all in legal and regulatory frameworks, and pursuing models of care that are based on primary health care. These care models must be people centred, account for human diversity, and facilitate genuine social participation. The Commission is unflinching in its acknowledgment of social inequality as a barrier to health. It recommends intersectoral interventions in economic, housing, and infrastructure conditions, and the creation of regulatory and oversight

mechanisms for the private sector. However, it notes that the social determinants approach to health, although useful, can compartmentalise these factors without critically examining why these determinants have arisen and whom they are serving. The Commission criticises the consolidation of a worldwide economic model based on globalisation and increasing commercialisation and urbanisation, which it sees has led to climate change, migration, an increase in non-communicable diseases, mental health disorders, road traffic injuries, and violence.

In response to the Commission, López Obrador announced changes that would enshrine the right to health in the Mexican Constitution. PAHO also announced a new Regional Compact, PHC 30-30-30, which sets goals for countries to, by 2030, commit themselves to allocating 30% of the health budget to first-level care and to reduce health access barriers by 30%. By examining health beyond its social determinants, the PAHO Commission not only delivers actionable recommendations with regional impact but also presents the global order of the 21st century as a barrier to health for all. ■ *The Lancet*

For more on the **Commission** see <http://iris.paho.org/xmlui/handle/123456789/50742>

For more on **PHC 30-30-30** see [https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15078:phc-30-30-30-paho-s-new-regional-compact-on-primary-health-care-for-universal-health&Itemid=1926&lang=en](https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15078:phc-30-30-30-paho-s-new-regional-compact-on-primary-health-care-for-universal-health&Itemid=1926&lang=en)