PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION INITIATIVES

Enrique Pérez-Gutiérrez & Ottorino Cosivi
Veterinary Public Health Program, Pan-American Health Organization\World Health Organization (WHO), Av. Presidente Kennedy, 7778 Duque de Caxias CEP 25040-004 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In order to monitor the evolution of antimicrobial resistance, six Latin American countries using the WHO-Global Foodborne Infections Network (WHO-GFN, www.who.int\gfn) framework have set-up integrated antimicrobial monitoring systems.

Following WHO recommendations, the countries have adopted a tripartite approach to include human clinical cases, food animals and retail meats. The systems, integrates data from the national microbiology laboratories on human cases, data from the selected food chains (poultry, swine) at farm, abattoirs and retail levels.

The systems have developed protocols to monitor changes in susceptibility/resistance to antimicrobial agents of public health and animal health significance in selected zoonotic bacterial pathogens (*Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli*) and commensal bacteria (*Enterococcus*) recovered from animal, retail, and humans. The goals of these Latin-American integrated surveillance systems are the same goals promoted by the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR, www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/agisar/en/) which include providing descriptive data and trends on antimicrobial susceptibility/resistance patterns in zoonotic, food-borne bacterial pathogens and select commensal organisms in order to identify unusual or high levels of antibacterial drug resistance in humans, animals, and retail meats as well as to contain it.