

The Future of Health Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean

June 3, 2020



James Fitzgerald

James Fitzgerald is currently the Director of the Department of Health Systems and Services of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and is responsible for overseeing the PAHO work program on health policy and governance, health systems and services organization, human resources for health, financing in health, and access to medicines and health technologies, oriented towards Universal Health.

Commencing his career initially with the pharmaceutical industry, he joined PAHO/WHO in 1997 where he worked as an advisor in policy issues related to access and regulation of medicines and health technologies in Haiti, Brazil and PAHO headquarters, Washington D.C. USA.

He assumed the coordination of the PAHO regional work program in the Americas in Medicines and Health Technologies (2008 – 2013) and, in 2014, was appointed Director of Health Systems and Services.

As a national of Ireland, he obtained his Bachelor in Science, Pharmacy (1989), and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences (1993), from the University of Dublin, Ireland. He is the author and coauthor of numerous articles, and is a member of a number of professional societies and advisory groups associated with his profession and area of work.



Rolf E. Hoenger

Rolf Hoenger is the Area Head of Roche Pharma Latin America. Rolf has a long trajectory in the region, where he has held several positions, including General Manager for Roche Peru, Colombia and Ecuador, Commercial Development Director for Latin America, Marketing and Sales Manager for Central America and the Caribbean, and, most recently, General Manager of Roche Brazil.

He started his career at Roche Group in 1993 as Market Manager of Central Asia, where he founded the company's operations in these countries. Rolf holds a degree in Economics from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.



Felicia Knaul

An international health economist and expert in Latin American health systems and social sectors, Felicia Marie Knaul, Ph.D., is director of the Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas and a professor at the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. She is also a full member of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and holds several secondary appointments. Knaul most recently served as director of the Harvard Global Equity Initiative (HGEI) and associate professor at Harvard Medical School.

Collaborating with faculty at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami, she contributes to research and teaching in cancer and global health as well as catalyzes the University's research presence throughout the Americas focusing on policy development. Her research focuses on global health, cancer and breast cancer in low- and middle-income countries, women and health, health systems and reform, health financing, access to pain control and palliative care, poverty and inequity, gender equity and female labor force participation, and children in especially difficult circumstances.

She has held senior government posts in Mexico and Colombia and worked for bilateral and multilateral agencies including the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and UNICEF. She maintains a research base in Mexico anchored at the Mexican Health Foundation. In 2017, Knaul was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico and awarded Level III of the Mexican National System of Researchers.

After earning her B.A. in Economics and International Development from the University of Toronto, Knaul received a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. She is a citizen of Canada and the UK and a permanent resident of Mexico.



Fernando Pedro

Fernando, MD , joined UHG Brazil in 2012, and he has held leadership positions in Americas and Amil. Additionally, he holds an Executive MBA from Insper Sao Paulo, Brazil and concluded a leadership program in Harvard Business School, Boston, USA.

As an Executive Director of Hospital Alvorada, started the four-year partnership with Hospital for Special Surgery, NY. He also implemented the Value Drive Model on Hip and Knee Replacement

in partnership with IHI and Harvard Business School. Fernando joined Amil in March, 2018, as Clinical Management Director and with his team of managers has implemented some projects such as Mental Health Program, UCC and Remote Management, all recognized as a balance between sustainability and an increase of patient outcomes and experience.

Fernando assumed, in January, 2020, the position of Amil Chief Medical Officer. He is career-focused and also very active in his personal life. He loves running and cycling with his wife and son at weekends.



Ferdinando Regalia

Ferdinando Regalia is the Social Protection and Health Division Chief. Prior to this position, he served as an Advisor to the IDB Vice President for Sectors and Knowledge (2008-2009), Chief of Social Policy and Economics at UNICEF South Africa (2008-2007), Social Protection Specialist in the Sector Operations Department 2 (Central America, Dominican Republic and Mexico), and Poverty Economist in the IDB's Poverty Unit (1999 – 2006). In these roles, he led the preparation of key lending operations and technical assistance projects in social protection and completed analytical studies in the areas of poverty and social protection. Ferdinando has published in peer-reviewed journals such as Population Studies, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Economics of Education Review and Journal of Labor Economics and is the author of book chapters on social protection and result-based financing mechanisms. Ferdinando is of Italian nationality. He holds a PhD and a Masters in Economics from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain.



Hugo F. Villegas

Hugo F. Villegas has been president of Latin America for Medtronic since January 2015. He is responsible for the operations and business performance of the region with commercial operations in more than 35 countries.

Villegas began his 33-year career in sales for Johnson & Johnson, after which he held positions of increasing responsibility, from marketing to general management. He was Country Manager for J&J Peru and J&J Venezuela and subsequently led regional marketing for the company's Cordis division. Villegas also served as regional vice president of Johnson & Johnson Latin America and as regional vice president of Johnson & Johnson Europe's Medical Technology. In 2013 Villegas brought a strong strategic vision and passion for growth and became president of Covidien Latin America. Under his leadership, Covidien's regional business accomplished

double digit growth. After Medtronic's acquisition of Covidien in early 2015, he became president for the new, expanded operations of both companies across the continent.

Villegas has been a committed member of the Council of the Americas, supporting the Council's work in the region, and participating actively in the Council's New York and Washington Conference on the Americas. A native of Colombia, Hugo holds a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in marketing. He currently serves as a member of the Advisory Board for the Department of Biomedical Engineering of Andes University in Colombia and BioFlorida.