

European and Latin American experts met to tackle the challenges faced by Personalised Medicine

The first [EULAC PerMed Summer School](#) was held on 7th-8th of November, at the National Health School, from the Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII).



The training sessions were organised under the framework of the European Project [EULAC PerMed](#), whose main objective is to promote collaboration between the European Union (EU)

and Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) entities in the field of **Personalised Medicine** (hereinafter PM), and to foster the integration of LAC countries into the [International Consortium on PM](#) (ICPerMed).

With the aim of gathering a significant number of PM stakeholders and providing an opportunity for exposure and networking with relevant PM participants, the First EULAC PerMed Summer School was hosted as a back to back event to the [2nd Workshop of the ICPerMed "Citizens, Patients and Implementation"](#) and a Cluster event with [Innovative Training Networks](#) (ITN) funded projects, organised by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission.

A total of eight international experts presented the state-of-the-art and the challenges regarding the integration of PM in the health systems of both Europe and the Latin America and Caribbean region with the Per Med European Commission representation.

Six applicants were rewarded according their excellence qualifications, their interest on PerMed and the applicability in their research project, with geographical balance.

The selected applicants were Erika Chavira Suárez (Tetepan, Mexico), Irene Paradisi (Caracas, Venezuela), Gabriela Repetto (Santiago, Chile), Tatiana Martins Tilli (Rio de Janeiro- Brazil), Cristian Andrés Vilos Ortiz (Santiago de Chile, Chile) and Ursula Andrea Winter (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

The lectures focused on various topics, such as: genetic research and databases in Latin America, the role of health care providers in the adoption and consolidation of PM, the present and future of e-health applications, the application of PM in oncology and rare diseases, and evidenced the cross-cutting nature of PM and the required effort for including different sectors for a successful development of the PM worldwide.

The 30 attendees were also briefed on two closely linked initiatives. First, the [ICPerMed's third 'Best Practice in Personalised Medicine' Recognition 2020, which](#) will honour the best practice examples on Personalised Medicine. The 2020 call is open to candidates worldwide and not only restricted to members of ICPerMed as previous ones. Secondly, both researchers and funding agencies from the LAC region were encouraged to join the [next call of ERA PerMed](#) that funds translational research projects on PM.

The Project Officer (the liaison person with the European Commission) took part in the Summer School and presented the vision of the European Commission on the future of PM and the related calls that will be opened next year for assuring the sustainability of PM.

The feedback form carried out at the end of the event showed that 90% of the participants valued the Summer School and its programme extremely useful for their professional activity.

The possibility to do Networking, interactions between the country participants (Europe and Latin America) between speakers and collaborative multidisciplinary groups (various disciplines involved) and the high quality of the presentations were some of the aspects more highlighted by the participants.

EULAC PerMed project started on 1st January 2019, it is led by the Institute of Health Carlos III and composed by other 10 partners from both EU and LAC region. This inter-regional consortium will organise three more Summer Schools until the end of the project on 31st December 2021. The Second Summer School will focus on health technology assessment research in PM. It will take place in Montevideo, and will be hosted by the National Research and Innovation Agency of Uruguay.

From 9th - 13th December 2019, international PM stakeholders will gather in Montevideo around three core events of the project: the Second Summer School, a Stakeholders Workshop aimed at analysing and debating on the current situation of PM in LAC region and a Technical Workshop on the topic of methodologies for data use and data analysis in PM research.

The events agendas are published in the EULAC PerMed website, which is available in: <http://www.eulac-permed.eu/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 825173