

Ongoing Seminar 2021 Historical and International Perspective of the Colombian Health System

The "Ongoing Seminar 2021: Historical and International Perspective of the Colombian Health System" was held in the first semester of the year 2021 with the participation of thirty speakers or panelists, twenty-two of them residents in Colombia and eight from abroad, all of them belonging to universities, research centers and international agencies. It was organized by the Health Economics Group of the Faculty of Economic Sciences of the University of Antioquia and the Public Health Group, Institute of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, National University of Colombia.

The seminar was designed as an open access virtual academic activity, from historical and international perspectives, fed by plural visions coming from disciplines such as economics, sociology, political science, and public health, with systemic, comparative, and prospective analysis approaches. The seminar was carried out with the purpose of advancing in-depth analysis of the institutional processes, achievements, problems, and perspectives of the health system in Colombia, to serve as a basis for debate and policy proposals in the scenarios of democratic analysis of the options that the health system has, in the present and in the future.

The seminar initially included three theoretical or contextual sessions, the first dedicated to reviewing the perspective of health systems in middle-income countries, with Anne Mills as opening speaker; the second to discussing the role of the State and the market, with keynote lectures by Ana Sojo, and Jorge Iván González, and the third to raising and discussing aspects of measuring health outcomes, with the participation of Frederico Guanais of the OECD, Daniel Maceira, and Sergio Prada. The seven sessions were dedicated to discussing the design and evolution of the Colombian system, framed within the fundamental functions of health systems.

These sessions addressed issues related to stewardship and governance, financing, service delivery and public health. The right to health and primary health care were also discussed. The closing of the seminar was devoted to discussing the perspectives of the health system in times of pandemic.

This special section of the Revista de Salud Pública presents articles derived from some of the conferences of the seminar. An analytical approach to the evolution of the health system (Restrepo), an analysis of the market and goods (González), financing and spending in the health system (Barón and Espinal) are published. On the other hand, an analysis of the efficiency of service providers (Prada) and an analysis of equity and quality (Maceira) are presented. Two articles deal with primary care and health policies in the context of the pandemic (Hernández and Ríos; Ortega and Rincón). Aspects of prevention and health promotion are addressed in the articles by Franco and Robledo.

We hope that the reading of these documents will serve as a basis for understanding the problems of the Colombian health system and as inspiration for the design of future options for this system. The recordings of the seminar sessions are available on the institutional YouTube channel of the Faculty of Medicine of the National University of Colombia (<https://bit.ly/3x6SwAH>).

Sessions of the Permanent Seminar 2021:
 "Historical and international perspective of the Colombian health system"

Session	Date	Talk	Speakers/affiliation
Opening	March 11 th , 2021	Advances and challenges of health systems in middle-income countries	Anne Mills (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine) Moderator: Ramón Abel Castaño (consultor)
2 nd	March 25 th , 2021	Health systems and the role of the state and the market	Jorge Iván González (National University of Colombia) Ana Sojo. International advisory Moderator: Jairo Humberto Restrepo (GES)
3 rd	April 8 th , 2021	Measuring health outcomes: analysis and comparison of indicators	Frederico Guanais (OECD, Paris) Daniel Maceira (CEDES, Argentina) Sergio Prada (Fundación Valle de Lili) Moderator: Daysi Sanmartín (GES)
4 th	April 22 th , 2021	History of the General System of Social Security in Health	Carlos Agudelo (National University of Colombia) Jairo Humberto Restrepo (GES) Moderator: Eleonora Guerrero (National University of Colombia)
5 th	May 6 th , 2021	Health financing in Colombia: an international perspective	Rodrigo Moreno (University of York) Gilberto Barón Juan José Espinal (GES) Moderator: María T. Petro. Fondo Global (Switzerland)
6 th	May 20 th , 2021	Governance and regulation of the Colombian health care system	Maureen Lewis (Acceso Global) Olga Zapata (GES) Jaime Ramírez (Universidad Javeriana) Moderator: Gabriel Jaime Guarín (Pontifical Bolivarian University)
7 th	June 3 th , 2021	Fundamental Right to Health: Progress and Challenges	Hernando Torres (Dean of the Faculty of Law, National University of Colombia) Angela García Prado (Constitutional Court of Colombia) Moderator: Jairo Humberto Restrepo (GES)
8 th	June 17 th , 2021	Health promotion and disease prevention: evolution and overall assessment.	Álvaro Franco (University of Antioquia) Luis Jorge Hernández (University of Los Andes) Rocío Robledo (National University of Colombia) Moderator: Juan Carlos García (National University of Colombia)
9 th	July 1 st , 2021	Models of care and primary health care	Catalina Ascanio (National University of Colombia) Jorge Humberto Blanco (CES University) Moderator: Jesús Ortega (National University of Colombia)
Closing	July 15 th , 2021	The health system in times of pandemic	Fernando de la Hoz (National University of Colombia) Óscar Franco (University of Bern) Moderator: Carlos Agudelo (National University of Colombia)

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