MINUTES

The 6th Ordinary Meeting of RINC’s Management Board was held on May 17 and 18, in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay.

The participants’ list is in ANNEX I.

DAY 1 – May 17

1. OPENING
Dr Lucia Delgado and Dr Alvaro Luongo, RINC’s Coordinators, and Dr Gilberto Ríos, Director of the International Relations Advisory Division of the Ministry of Public Health, were responsible for opening the meeting. Before concluding her considerations, Dr Delgado acknowledged the participation of all, with special regard to representatives of the Working Group on National Cancer Registries, Dr Enrique Barrios; of the Biobanks Working Group, Dr Gonzalo Ardao, of the Executive Committee of the Regional Plan of Integrated Actions and Technical Assistance for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control, Dr Luiz Santini, Dr Silvina Arrossi, Dr Guillermo Rodriguez, Dr Carlos Santos Ortiz; and most especially Dr Sankaranarayanan, Special Advisor on Cancer at the IARC, for his generosity and efforts made to participate in the event.

The Meeting’s Agenda and Programme were put forward to Delegates present in the meeting for consideration and were approved by them.

The Agenda of the meeting is in ANNEX II.

2. BRIEF REPORT OF RINC’S ACTIVITIES IN 2015 AND MAIN WORK GUIDELINES FOR 2016-2017

Report presented by RINC’s Executive Manager, Walter Zoss. The report was approved and is annexed to these Minutes as ANNEX III.

3. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF INTEGRATED ACTIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION – Current situation and next steps
I. Intervention of Dr Sankaranarayanan – Dr Sankaranarayanan made an exposition of the situation of cervical cancer and possibilities for its elimination. ANNEX IV.
III. Dr Arrossi was responsible for the presentation of the progress achieved in the process of elaboration of the Plan and its Executive Summary, which has been sent to the Pro Tempore Presidency of UNASUR.

IV. Next, there was a fruitful exchange of opinions. The members of the Management Committee have agreed upon the following points:

   a. There was a proposal to elaborate a summary of the excellent presentation made by Dr Sankar as an element to promote the inclusion of vaccines in plans for cervical cancer prevention in countries that do not have these vaccines included yet. It was finally agreed that the presentation should be included in the final document of the Plan, as well as the cost-effectiveness analysis made by Dr. Rolando Camacho. Dr Silvina Arrossi will circulate the document in order to verify if any point should be reinforced.

   b. To support the elaboration of proposals for prevention and early detection according to the characteristics of each region, with particular emphasis on the strategy to be followed by rural populations with difficult access to health systems.

   c. The need for definition of short, medium and long term activities.

   d. To request that UNASUR's Technical Group on Universal Access to Medicines include the HPV vaccine in conjoint procurements so as to reduce its costs and promote the access to it.

   e. To change the name of the Plan to “UNASUR Region Free of Cervical Cancer”.

   f. To change the name of one of the 9 strategies from “Advocacy” to “Advocacy – Public Education – Communication”.

   g. To establish a five-year deadline for the implementation of the Plan.

4. REPORT OF ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES OF WORKING GROUPS

   I. BIOBANKS WORKING GROUP REBLAC – Report provided by Dr Gonzalo Ardao, (Director of the Tissue Bank of the HCFFAA). The report is herein annexed as ANNEX V.

   II. WORKING GROUP ON BREAST CANCER CONTROL - Dr Maldonado’s presentation focused on describing a survey that shall be carried out with the aim of determining the situation of breast cancer in UNASUR countries, as regards incidence and mortality, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The presentation is herein annexed and is identified as ANNEX VI. Likewise, she informed that the survey is currently going through the last stage of review, which shall soon be concluded and shared with countries.

   III. WORKING GROUP ON CANCER REGISTRIES – GIRC/IARC Cancer Registry Centre. Dr Enrique Barrios presented achievements of the period 2010-2015 and plans for 2016-2020. The report is in ANNEX VII.
IV. ARCAL Project of the IAEA – Report by Dr Teresa Romero. She described the Project and offered to work as an intermediate between RINC and the IAEA, so as to disseminate the activities of the Project, and applied for participation in the Communication Group. ANNEX VIII.

V. SOCIAL COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP – Creation, integration and functions. RINC’s Executive Manager focused his considerations on explaining the process of creation of the Group, which will hold its first meeting in Lima, Peru, at INEN facilities, on June 30 and July 1st. In the first instance, it was suggested that the name of the group should be: Working Group on Social Communication.

a. It was requested that members of the Management Board appoint one expert/journalist per country, from the social communication department of the Institute or from the corresponding Ministry of Health, to take part in this new Working Group.

b. Among the duties assigned to the Group, there are 1) Communication as a tool to support the management of the Network/ of Working Groups 2) Exchange of national and local communication strategies 3) Support to the implementation of UNASUR’s Regional Plan for Cervical Cancer Control.

DAY 2 – May 18

5. SUMMARY OF THE FIRST DAY, PROPOSALS AND SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF RINC/UNASUR AND OTHER SUBJECTS

I. COORDINATION – Mr. Walter Zoss informed of a proposal discussed during the last virtual meeting of the Board in January 2016, in which there was consensus regarding the maintenance of RINC’s coordination with Uruguay for another year. All members of the Board have supported the proposal, and therefore Dr Lucía Delgado Pebe and Dr Álvaro Luongo remain in the coordination of RINC/UNASUR representing Uruguay.

II. FUNDING OF RINC ACTIVITIES – Dr Santini and Mr. Walter Zoss explained that Brazil’s INCA will no longer be able to fund the activities of Working Groups and of the Management Board through the agreement signed by the Brazilian National Cancer Institute and the Ministry of Health with PAHO, which poses a threat to the continuity of activities of working groups. It was requested that the Executive Manager elaborate an estimated budget for the evaluation of possible funding options. Dr Bouzas guaranteed that Brazil’s National Cancer Institute will continue to support the activities of RINC’s Technical Secretariat, by covering staff and infrastructure costs.

III. UICC – Mr. Walter Zoss informed the participants that the members from the UICC have contacted RINC and expressed their interest in having more Latin American countries of RINC/UNASUR as members.
a. It was recognized that it is important to have a Latin American representative in the UICC’s Board of Directors. The next ordinary assembly of the UICC, on November 1st, 2016, at the World Cancer Congress in Paris, will elect new members for the UICC’s Board. All members pronounced their formal support to the candidacy of Dr Bouzas, who has applied for the position through Brazil.

b. It was suggested that RINC could have a stand in the Congress’ Exhibition Hall, and it was then suggested that the Technical Secretariat send a proposal to Board members in this regard. Some members showed interest in the subject.

IV. HIGH-COST MEDICINES – An e-mail message sent by Mr. Tomás Pippo, coordinator of UNASUR’s Technical Group on Universal Access to Medicines was presented (and is herein annexed as ANNEX IX), with information about a preparatory meeting, in June, to address conjoint procurement in the ambit of UNASUR and MERCOSUR with the aim of including oncological medicines in these negotiations. The Board suggested that the WHO’s list of essential medicines for cancer treatment should be considered, with attention to the pressure for the inclusion of new medicines. There are presently only 17 or 18 medicines, which are responsible for the cure of 80% of total cancer cases in the world or for the survival of patients.

6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES

REGIONAL COOPERATION TO ENSURE QUALIFIED HR TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CANCER CONTROL

a. Mr. Walter Zoss presented some opportunities for capacity-building: the first one is in INCA, Brazil, in Rio de Janeiro, with the ENEO – “National and International Meeting of Oncological Endoscopy” in September 2016, ANNEX X, and the Master Class, organized by the European School of Oncology and the European Society of Clinical Oncology in Costa Rica, expected for the first semester of 2017, ANNEX XI.

b. It was recognized that capacity building and continuous updating of HR in the region is an important issue. It was suggested to create a Group for the Promotion of Capacity-building Grants.

c. Dr Pradier offered the possibility of reproducing online versions of courses that are already being offered to Argentine technicians, and offering them to all member countries.

d. Mr. Zoss suggested the creation of a page on RINC/UNASUR’s website with a tool to check courses and opportunities available in HR capacity-building in the region. The page will publish the courses proposed by Dr Pradier and others, upon request to the Technical Secretariat.
e. It was also requested that this page function as a tool for the dissemination of workforce experiences among our institutions and that it could eventually facilitate the exchange of residents.

7. CLOSING Dr Álvaro Luongo thanked Delegates for their attendance and closed RINC/UNASUR’s meeting.

LIST OF ANNEXES

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