PAHO

Celebrates

its Centennial
The past century has witnessed significant achievements in health in the Americas, and it is worthy of celebration. Working together in solidarity, PAHO and its Member Countries have recorded and properly commemorated this centennial.

Mirta Roses Periago
Inauguration Speech as Director of PAHO
The centennial celebrations of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) showcased Pan Americanism at its best. All the countries in the Region took part with their own, unique programs, but all were united under a common theme and brand. At the end of a year of anniversary events and activities, much remained. In addition to a recommitment to the Pan American Health Organization’s goals and ideals, the year-long celebration left videos, public service announcements, folders, posters, post cards, bookmarks, stickers, stationery, exhibits, press materials, books, stamps, brochures, and other products. Swimming meets, foot races, and walks were held, and commemorative quilts, jackets, and books were produced. Throughout, there was a common spirit, one which led to songs, dances, shows, seminars, and to the participation of all segments of society.

Country Programs

The focus of centennial events was in the countries. Each one created its national program, set up activities, and crafted products. PAHO/WHO Country Offices enlisted the participation of a broad spectrum of society to form national committees, nominate “Public Health Heroes,” and invite “Champions of Health” to become spokespersons for good health messages. During 2002, many countries in the Americas issued commemorative stamps for PAHO’s centennial and 10 published books honoring the Organization’s work.

Three hemisphere-wide contests were held in 2002 in honor of the centennial. There was a poster contest, “A Picture of Health,” for children 6–12 years old, and an essay contest, “Partnerships in Health,” for adolescents 13–18 years old. The Pan American Health Reporting Awards contest, open to all professional journalists working for newspapers throughout the hemisphere, honored excellence in reporting on international public health issues. The poster contest was won by a 10-year-old Jamaican girl for her poster, “Healthy Living.” An 18-year-old Peruvian boy took top honors in the essay contest, with his piece entitled, “Unidos por la Salud.” They each won $500 and a certificate of recognition from the Organization, and a computer from Discovery Health Communications, Inc. A Canadian journalist who wrote about obesity was the winner of the health reporting award. His prize and a certificate of recognition from the Organization were awarded to him in Washington, D.C., during the XXVI Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 2002. All three had already captured national awards before winning the regional contest. Twenty-four countries throughout the hemisphere participated in one or more of the centennial contests.

In April, World Health Day activities around the Region dealt with the anniversary. Activities included many walks for health, health fairs, a symposium on
The Countries Celebrate PAHO’s Centennial

Antigua and Barbuda
- The Ministry of Health and Social Improvement issued commemorative stamps.
- PAHO label pins were distributed throughout the country.

Argentina
- PAHO Director George A. O. Alleyne participated in the inauguration of a centennial plaza honoring the Organization in Clorinda, Formosa, during the official launching of the healthy borders project.
- An institutional campaign commemorating PAHO’s centennial, produced free of charge by McCann Erickson, was aired on TV.
- The country’s Postal Service launched a commemorative stamp. A special postmark and brochure for stamp collectors were issued with the stamp.
- At the International Book Fair in Buenos Aires, the PAHO/WHO Country Office presented a publication on the Organization’s 100 years of work with the country’s health sector.

Bahamas
- The country kicked off its PAHO centennial activities with a balloon-festooned celebration at a Nassau resort, attended by Bahamas Governor General, Dame Ivy Dumont, and Minister of Health, Ronald Knowles, along with several former ministers of health and a multigenerational gathering of Bahamian citizens.
- A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Caribbean centennial quilt, which has also been featured at PAHO 100 events in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as other Caribbean destinations.

International scientific meetings were held in Chile (health promotion—healthy cities), Brazil (bioethics), Mexico (environmental issues), and the United States (health research and vaccines). In addition, meetings in Cuba and throughout the Caribbean were proclaimed as official centennial events. A tribute honoring then-Director, Dr. George Alleyne—the only Director from the Caribbean—was held in Jamaica and televised throughout the Caribbean. Dr. Alleyne also received a host of awards, including Bolivia’s highest decoration, “El Condor de los Andes.”

diabetes, various scientific meetings, city-wide marathons, educational programs for young people, and the inauguration of several “healthy park” initiatives. Staff at El Salvador’s PAHO/WHO Country Office led a group of international civil servants on a hike to climb the country’s highest volcano.
Barbados

- Minister of Health, Marcus Betel, honored PAHO’s centennial in a presentation before a session of parliament on December 2, as he recognized the Organization’s contribution to the delivery of health care in his country.
- Then-PAHO Director, Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, was given a framed presentation of a set of stamps issued by the Postmaster General. The Director’s image is on one of the stamps; the other three depict women’s health, physical activity, and HIV/AIDS awareness.
- One of Barbados’ noted soca artists, Brian ‘Bumba’ Payne, sang a stirring rendition “Drug Free Lives.”

Belize

- On December 2, 2002, an official ceremony and an open house highlighted PAHO’s work.
- A “Hike Bike and Fun Run” event was scheduled for April 6 2002 for people of all ages. This event and other health promotion activities throughout the year focused on healthy lifestyles in the context of the centennial celebrations, for example, the release of 100 balloons to launch the centennial in the country and the holding of a health fair booth.

Bolivia

- To honor PAHO’s centennial, the Ministry of Health organized a special ceremony at its offices on December 2.
- The city of La Paz inaugurated a new PAHO centennial plaza in the neighborhood of Sopocachi, near PAHO/WHO’s Country Office.
- Bolivia’s Ministry of Defense decorated PAHO with the order of Mariscal Andrés Santa Cruz, and the Bolivian Armed Forces awarded the Organization the Colonel Eduardo Avaroa Military Merit.
- A national 10k race, “For A Healthy Bolivia,” was held on Sunday, September 1. The event was promoted by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Bolivian Federation of Athletics.
- The commemorative book, History of Public Health in Bolivia, was launched on 28 August 2002 at a community center in the city of La Paz. The event was attended by authorities representing the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Society of Public Health, and the National Congress.
- 50,000 copies of a commemorative stamp were issued.
- Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, then-Director of PAHO, received the designation of “Illustrious Host of the City of La Paz.”
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, awarded the Pan American Health Organization the “Condor of the Andes” in honor of the celebration of its centennial.
- The El Alto municipal government and PAHO launched a project to assist poor urban families in what has been named the Distrito Centenario OPS (PAHO Centennial District).
Brazil

- Brazil honored PAHO’s centennial in a December 11 event attended by some 2,500 guests, including high-level government officials and representatives of the country’s national, state and local health councils; the diplomatic corps; international agencies; NGOs and academy.
- The centennial also was commemorated during the XXIX Brazilian Congress of Veterinary Medicine.
- The centennial was celebrated during the Second International Seminar on Health, Environment and Development.

Canada

- Seventeen Canadians were named “Public Health Heroes” during the 9th Canadian Conference on International Health.
- The Canadian Society for International Health conducted a tree planting ceremony in Ottawa to commemorate PAHO’s centennial. After the event, a granite monument was inscribed in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, to read: “In recognition of Canada’s contribution to the health of the people of the Americas, and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Pan American Health Organization, we dedicate the planting of this tree as a growing symbol of our collaboration to improve health in the Americas.” The monument was dedicated on June 5, 2002 by the Honorable A. Anne McLellan, Minister of Health of Canada.

Chile

- Chile held a press conference announcing its centennial celebrations and activities throughout the year.
- A “Walk for Health” was held in April to celebrate PAHO’s centennial and World Health Day.
- In December, an event looked to the future of public health—the goals and future accomplishments, especially equity and Panamericanism.

Colombia

- Colombia held a National Vaccination Day on November 29 as part of its PAHO centennial celebrations.
- PAHO’s 100th anniversary was also honored in April/May at the 15th International Book Fair in Bogotá, where 847 children received special “healthy artist” badges sporting the PAHO centennial logo.
- There was wide dissemination of written material regarding PAHO and its contributions to the country in the academic, professional and public assistance sectors.
Costa Rica
• During an event at the Presidential House, PAHO received a plaque of recognition by the President of the Republic, Dr. Abel Pacheco de la Espriella, and the Minister of Health, Dr. María del Rocío Sáenz.
• The Legislature placed a special PAHO centennial commemorative plaque at the entrance to its Hall of Former Presidents in August.
• The country issued a commemorative edition of the national lottery.
• An exhibit highlighting PAHO’s achievements toured the country.
• The Postal Service issued four commemorative stamps.

Cuba
• An event at PAHO/WHO’s Country Office included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, the launching of a “PAHO 100” postal stamp, and the presentation of a special centennial publication.
• As part of the Latin American Day of Medicine, 25 Cuban health professionals were named “Outstanding Public Health Individuals,” and the people of Cuba and president Fidel Castro were awarded a special PAHO Diploma of Recognition for the country’s achievements in public health.
• The 2002 International Convention on Public Health in Havana brought together delegates from 20 countries.
• A booklet on PAHO’s work in the country was published.

Dominican Republic
• PAHO’s centennial celebrations were launched during the opening session of the National Primary Care Forum, “Primary Care: a Response to the Reform Challenge and the Struggle Against Poverty.”
• During the session, Dr. George Alleyne was presented with the Order of Christopher Columbus in recognition of the service of the organization to the unity and development of the people of the Americas.
• Other activities included the development of centennial Web page and the launch of public information campaign throughout 2002.

Ecuador
• PAHO/WHO’s Country Office organized an open house.
• The Government issued a PAHO centennial stamp.
• The country’s two largest dailies published a special supplement honoring the centennial.
• PAHO was awarded the “Order of Merit,” at the 8th Congress of Environmental and Sanitary Engineering, held in Guayaquil, in June; this presidential medal is given to persons or institutions for their outstanding contribution to the national interest.
• The commemorative book, *The Condor, the Serpent, and the Hummingbird: PAHO/WHO and Public Health in Ecuador During the 20th Century*, was launched at the National Theater of Ecuador’s Institute of Culture.

**El Salvador**

• Villa Centenario, the “healthy housing” project that honors PAHO’s centennial and benefits 100 families left homeless by the earthquakes of 2001, was inaugurated.
• The country’s Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp.
• The PAHO/WHO Country Office in El Salvador recognized the work carried out by past and present representatives of the Organization in a special ceremony on September 18, 2002.
• The book, *Villa Centenario OPS. Crónica de Vivienda Saludable ante un Desastre*, was launched.
• El Salvador’s Legislature honored PAHO as a “Most Meritorious Institution,” for its 100 years of outstanding work in the health sector in the Americas and in El Salvador in particular.

**Guatemala**

• A stamp was issued, with a circulation of 50,000, to honor PAHO’s centennial.
• *Nuestro Diario*, the newspaper with the largest circulation in the country and the most accessible to the poorest populations, published the first edition of its “Living Healthy” campaign.
• A “Health Park” initiative was launched.

**Guyana**

• During the Mashramani float and costume parade, 100 years of health were celebrated in a float depicting health issues and PAHO.

**Haiti**

• At the annual conference of the Haitian Medical Association, a plaque of Honor and Merit was presented to PAHO/WHO’s Country Office for work to improve the health of the Haitian people.
• During his official visit to Haiti, Dr. George A. O. Alleyne received official recognition from the Minister of Health and Population.
• The Hospital Justinien in Cap Haïtien was rebuilt and renovated.
• A painting contest on violence was held, and an exhibit was set up featuring paintings representing domestic violence.

**Honduras**

• Dr. George A. O. Alleyne was presented with the “Orden José Cecilio del Valle,” in the degree of “Great Gentleman,” by vice-chancellor Aníbal Quiñónez.
• Honduras issued a commemorative postage stamp in April, following a special edition of the national lottery celebrating PAHO centennial in February.
• A sports championship for persons of all ages was held.
Jamaica
- The 8th International Diabetes Conference of Diabetes and Obesity (UWI/PAHO) was held in March.
- A Festival of Health and the launching of “Promoting Health” ceremony of the “Caribbean Quilt” was held on 10 March.
- A blood donation drive was organized by the PAHO/WHO Country Office and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute.
- A newspaper included a supplement detailing PAHO’s work and centennial activities in Jamaica.
- The Government of Jamaica, through the Postmaster General issued a commemorative stamp.

Mexico
- In a reception on 2 December, some 250 guests honored PAHO’s centennial and launched a commemorative postage stamp. A week earlier, the country issued a PAHO centennial lottery series.
- In October, the 28th Inter-American Congress on Sanitary and Environmental Engineering held a special session honoring the PAHO centennial, during which PAHO Director Dr. George A. O. Alleyne received a plaque honoring the Organization’s work.
- During the launching of the book *Models for the Implementation of Productive Projects on Health and Education in Latin America*, Dr. Guillermo Soberón, President of the Mexican Health Foundation (FUNSALUD) delivered a speech recognizing PAHO’s centennial and the Organization’s work in health promotion. FUNSALUD, Glaxo Smith Kline, and PAHO cosponsored the launching.
- During the celebration marking the 39th anniversary of the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies, Dr. Alleyne received three plaques commemorating PAHO’s centennial. The first one was presented by the Inter-American Conference of Social Security and its Department of Education, Training, and Research. The second one, presented by the Costa Rican Fund of Social Insurance, was sent from San José. The National Health Insurance Institute of Bolivia presented the third plaque.
- In Cuernavaca, Morelos, during the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Mexican School of Public Health, the 15th Anniversary of the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) and the centennial of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. George A.O. Alleyne, then-PAHO Director, was presented with a Certificate of Merit in Public Health. The President of Mexico, Mr. Vicente Fox Quesada, and Dr. Julio Frenk Mora, the country’s Secretary of Health, attended.
- During the same ceremony, Dr. Alleyne also received a plaque from President Fox honoring PAHO’s centennial and recognizing the Organization’s achievements and extraordinary efforts to improve the health of the people of the Americas.

Nicaragua
- The National Assembly honored PAHO’s centennial at its closing session, and decorated PAHO Representative Patricio Rojas with the Order of Pedro Joaquín Chamorro. A centennial event held
on 2 December drew about 300 participants, including the country’s acting Minister of Health, Margarita Gurdíán, and former ministers of health Marta Palacio and Lombardo Martínez. Nicaragua’s “Champions of Health,” singers Carlos and Luis Enrique Mejía Godoy and Norma Helena Cadea and boxing champion Alexis Arguello, were honored at the event, and several of their PAHO public service announcements were shown.

- In its centennial year, PAHO selected three of the most recognized figures of the music industry and the 6th person in history to win boxing championships in three different weight divisions as “Champions of the Health of Nicaragua.”
- The Nicaraguan Medical Foundation Dr. Concepción Palacios, the Pan American Alliance of Physicians, and the Medical Women’s International Association gave special recognition to PAHO for its valuable contribution and work since its founding.

Panama

- Panama organized several activities honoring the centennial during the August visit of then-PAHO Assistant Director Mirta Roses. During her visit, Dr. Roses lectured some 60 government officials and representatives of international organizations on epidemiology and public health. President Mireya Moscoso led a 6 Km health walk in which her cabinet participated.

Paraguay

- The PAHO/WHO Country Office is publicizing the centennial through its high-visibility support of the national “Safe Blood” campaign.
- The daily “Última Hora” recently published a four-page supplement on the Organization’s 100th anniversary.
- Press conferences were held to publicize centennial events.
- A four-page color spread on the centennial and the cooperation between Paraguay and PAHO appeared in “Ultima Hora”.
- A national essay contest on “Equality and Health” was organized for health professionals.

Peru

- During a special ceremony PAHO was conferred the “Orden del Sol” by President Alejandro Toledo.
- The “Healthy Park” initiative was launched on 7 June 2002.
- The official launching of the country’s centennial celebrations took place on 17 December 2001, at the PAHO/WHO Country Office in Lima. The ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Health, Dr. Fernando Carbone and the PAHO/WHO Representative in Peru.
- The “Declaration of Maternal Mortality” was signed by the Ministry of Health on 28 May 2002. The declaration is designed to bring maternal mortality as an indicator of health and development
to the forefront of people’s thinking by continuing to funnel social spending of governments and international financial institutions to social investment through investments in health.

**Suriname**
- Suriname marked both the PAHO centennial and the 100th voluntary blood donation of Andre Cooman, a Suriname citizen who began giving blood in 1956 and continued to do so for 46 years. In a November 6 ceremony, President of Suriname Ronaldo Venetiaan named Cooman Commander in the Order of the Yellow Star, the country’s highest civilian decoration.
- The Suriname Olympic Committee, in collaboration with PAHO, organized an Olympic Day Run.
- In Suriname, Dr. George A. O. Alleyne and the Minister of Education launched a joint initiative for “100 Smoke Free Schools,” a program that encourages 100 schools to adopt a smoke free environment policy for teachers and students.
- Mrs. Cynthia McLeod, Suriname’s “Champion of Health,” helped 100 elderly people improve their health through surgery and other necessary interventions, and the inter-religious committee will train 100 community health promoters.
- The launching of centennial celebrations began with an “AIDS Walk” on 1 December 2001, followed by an aerobathon.
- Two songs about PAHO—a rap song and a rap song set to reggae music—were presented.

**Trinidad and Tobago**
- The country launched a series of PAHO commemorative postage stamps. One honors J. Lennox Pawan, the Trinidadian bacteriologist who in 1931 discovered the transmission of rabies by vampire bats.
- The PAHO/WHO Country Office designed and made its own centennial quilt, and a local composer wrote a calypso song honoring the Organization’s anniversary. A 5K race for women was organized to commemorate the centennial.
- A centennial launch ceremony, held at the Hilton Hotel on the 17th of April, was attended by approximately 100 guests, including members of the diplomatic corps, government members, NGO representatives, senators, stakeholders, and PAHO staff.

**Uruguay**
- The country’s centennial activities included Uruguay’s first “Municipal Healthy Food Day” on May 20. Events around the country provided information on nutrition and proper food preparation, and several food manufactures opened their doors to more than 1,600 visiting schoolchildren, who were able to view food-processing techniques firsthand.
- First Lady Mercedes Menafrade Batlle dedicated a PAHO centennial plaza in the city of Tacuarembó on April 8.
• Then-PAHO Director, Dr. George Alleyne, spoke in videoconference from Washington, D.C., with Uruguay’s Director General of Health, Ofelia López, Tacuarembó Hospital Director Ciro Ferreira, and PAHO/WHO Representative, José Fiusa Lima in Tacuarembó.
• The country’s National Postal Administration approved the issuing of a commemorative stamp.

United States
• The United States Department of Health and Human Services celebrated PAHO’s centennial with an opening ceremony for an exhibit at the National Library of Medicine. The HHS exhibit, “A 100-year quest for health in the Americas 1902–2002,” had 12 panels showing PAHO’s history.

Venezuela
• Several conferences on public health issues took place the last Monday of every month, corresponding to the technical meetings of the PAHO/WHO Country Office.
• A Walkathon took place on World Health Day.
• During October, an exhibit of photographs and historical documents was on display to illustrate the evolution of 100 years of public health in Venezuela and PAHO’s role in the goals that have been reached.
• Throughout the year, scientific research articles were published, analyzing public health issues and problems, advances toward the achievement of “Healthy Children: Goal 2002,” in which Venezuela has been involved in reducing infant mortality.
• A ceremony was held to release 100 Years of Technical Cooperation between PAHO and Venezuela.
• On 2 December, in a special ceremony, the “Public Health Heroes” received awards and “Champions of Health” were thanked for their participation throughout the year.

Field Office/United States-Mexico Border
• Several workshops on “Public Information and Health” were held in January 2002.
• At the 60th Annual Meeting of the United States-Mexico Border Health Association in Chihuahua, Mexico, PAHO’s Director was the keynote speaker with his speech “PAHO, 100 Years of Health in the Americas.”
• At a gala dinner commemorating PAHO’s 100 years of work, “Border Health Heroes” were recognized.
• A photo contest on border health began in June 2001, which culminated in a photography exhibit in September 2002.
• The Field Offices’ 60th anniversary was recognized through the publication of a photographic book documenting PAHO’s work along the border.
Regional Initiatives

The centennial logo designed at Headquarters was used to brand all centennial products, including posters, media kits, photos, postcards, and news releases. Headquarters also sent to the Country Offices a CD-Rom with files of posters and brochures that could be used on local products, enhancing the centennial brand with local identification. Videos and public service announcements were distributed to the countries and marketed to major channels. A series of 12 one-minute video spots were aired worldwide. Headquarters published a commemorative photo book—Celebrating 100 Years of Health: The Quest for a Healthy America—which was launched in June. The book illustrates the advances and changes in the lives of the people of the Americas and tells the story of those who devoted themselves to improving health in the Region. It shows the cooperation of the Region’s nations and people to improve the lives of every person in the hemisphere. A special edition of Perspectives in Health, focusing on the future of public health, was published in August. A special anniversary web site was designed at Headquarters; it was launched in two languages and had links to country web pages. The site included special multimedia presentations, historical background pieces, and a store that handled the sale of centennial jackets, T-shirts, and caps.

A regional Centennial Advisory Board was formed, and names for “Public Health Heroes of the Americas” were submitted, researched, and selected. Timelines and event calendars were created, and country plans were integrated into a year-long centennial program. Nominees for “Centennial Champions of Health” included entertainment luminaries Don Francisco, Mercedes Sosa, Luis Enrique, and Jon Secada. All of them participated in the production of public service video announcements.

At Headquarters, many dignitaries and a large contingent of PAHO staff marked the centennial celebration’s January launch with the unfurling of a large banner on the front of the building, flags on lampposts around the building, Caribbean music, and balloons. The start of the hemispheric contests was announced and the first of three special photo exhibits was displayed.

The photo exhibits, “The Camera Lens as Chronicler, circa 1950” and “Faces of the Americas,” traveled to the University of Michigan School of Public Health and to Ecuador. The United States/PAHO graphic exhibit traveled to various U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regional offices, to the 60th anniversary meeting of the US-Mexico Border Health Association, and to the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pennsylvania.

During the XXVI Pan American Sanitary Conference in September 2002, Dr. Alleyne launched Health in the Americas, 2002 edition; Charting a Future for
Sites of PAHO Centennial Photo Exhibits

- United Nations Association Global Health Information Fair—Jersey City, New Jersey, April 2002
- National Association of Hispanic Journalists—San Diego, California, June 2002.

Health in the Americas, the Director’s Quadrennial Report; A Quest for Equity; a collection of his speeches from his two terms as Director, and Public Health in the Americas. A special reception was held at the Organization of American States.

Global Awards

Ministers of health from around world paid tribute to PAHO and its centennial at the 2002 World Health Assembly in Geneva, commending the Organization for its leadership and achievements. A resolution adopted by Member States noted “the role played by the Pan American Health Organization in the past 100 years in the noteworthy improvement that can be seen in health in the Region of the Americas.” The timeline of key public health events in the century was exhibited there, as well as at other times during the course of the centennial year. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also honored PAHO at a reception in Geneva.

The Global Health Council celebrates with PAHO at reception during its meeting in Florida, as well as at its annual meeting, and at a reception on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. A special recognition of the Organization was made at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. The US-Mexico Border Health Association also acknowledged the centennial at its annual meeting, as did the World Medical Association at its special meeting. The Inter-American Development Bank held a special conference on health and economics.

The Anniversary Day

Celebrations throughout the hemisphere took place on 2 December, the date of the first PAHO meeting 100 years earlier. The countries marked the day with com-
memorative activities that included receptions for high-level government officials; representatives of the country’s national, state, and local health councils; the diplomatic corps; international agencies; NGOs; and academia. The Country Offices held open houses and 5K races, baked birthday cakes, published special supplements for local newspapers, gave presentations before the legislative bodies in several countries, unveiled commemorative plaques, issued PAHO commemorative postage stamps and lottery tickets in several countries, held cultural events, and honored many national public health heroes and champions of health.

At Headquarters, the Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff held a reunion for members. The centennial symposia, “Celebrating Partnerships: 100 Years of Health in the Americas,” began on the afternoon of 2 December with a panel discussion, “Achievements and Challenges of Public Health in the Americas,” which was sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company. The symposia continued the next day with an all-day meeting highlighting partnerships for health in the Americas, sponsored by W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

A black-tie dinner celebration was held on the evening of 2 December at the Willard Inter-Continental Washington hotel, the site of the original meeting in 1902. The 11 “Public Health Heroes of the Americas” were honored at the dinner. United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, was the keynote speaker. Speaking to the audience, Annan said: “The teamwork exhibited by PAHO and its partners has itself become a unifying, democratizing force, empowering women and communities and drawing countries closer together in networks of knowledge and mutual aid.”

### Public Health Heroes of the Americas

- Mirna Cunningham, Nicaragua
- Elsa Moreno, Argentina
- Zilda Arns Neumann, Brazil
- Ruth Puffer, U.S.A.
- Carlos Canseco, Mexico
- Jacinto Convit, Venezuela
- Donald A. Henderson, U.S.A.
- José Jordán, Cuba
- Marc LaLonde, Canada
- Edgar Mohs, Costa Rica
- Kenneth Livingstone Standard, Jamaica