

DECLARATION ON ETHICS AND THE USE OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND GUIDELINES FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Declaration in Heredia, COSTA RICA 2008

The organizers and participants of the First Costa Rican Congress in Bioethics, of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cochrane Network in Latin America, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Cochrane Network in Central America, 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Latin American Network of Guidelines for Clinical Practice, celebrated in Heredia (Costa Rica) on June 24-27, 2008, considering that:

1. The quality of health attention and safety of the patients constitutes a social responsibility which involves political actors, professionals in health care science, the community and the users individual and collectively;
2. This social responsibility which is originated and expressed in an ethical framework, which integrates the respect towards the individual and collective rights of the users, the deontology of health care professionals and social morality.

We declare that:

This referenced ethical framework must be produced based on the creation and optimal use of the best possible scientific evidence available in the decision making process of health professionals, which can also be specified in the elaboration and application of guidelines for clinical practice and systematic revisions that promote quality in the attention of health care services and patient safety.

At the same time, this ethical framework is oriented by the individual and collective rights of the citizens, the public efficiency policies, social cohesion and equity in the access to health care services of the best possible quality, also by the prevalent social values; and it must be a point of reference for the formulation and execution of public health care policies.

We commit to use these ethical principles in our acting range, supported by the considerations found in the ethical framework and, likewise, we commit to encourage and support other actors of health care services in the same direction.

June 26, 2008; Heredia

- From the Master's in Bioethics of the National University, Costa Rica

Dra Ana Rodriguez Allen Coordinator of the Intra-University Master's UNA-UCR in Bioethics

- From LatinAmerican Cochrane Network

Dr. Xavier Bonfill Director of the LatinAmerican Cochrane Network, Barcelona Spain

- From CentralAmerican Cochrane Network –IHCAI

Dr. Mario Tristan General Director of IHCAI Foundation, coordinator of the Centralamerican Cochrane Network, Costa Rica

- From the Latinamerican Network of Guidelines for Clinical Practice for Quality

Dr. Ignacio Marin General Coordinator of the Latinamerican Network of Guidelines for clinical practice for the constant improvement of the Quality, Seville Spain

- From the Government of Costa Rica, Health minister

Dra. Maria Luisa Avila Health Minister in Costa Rica – San José Costa Rica

NOTE : THE ORIGINAL SPANISH VERSION HAS THE SIGNATURE OF EVERY INSTITUCIONAL REPRESENTATIVES .