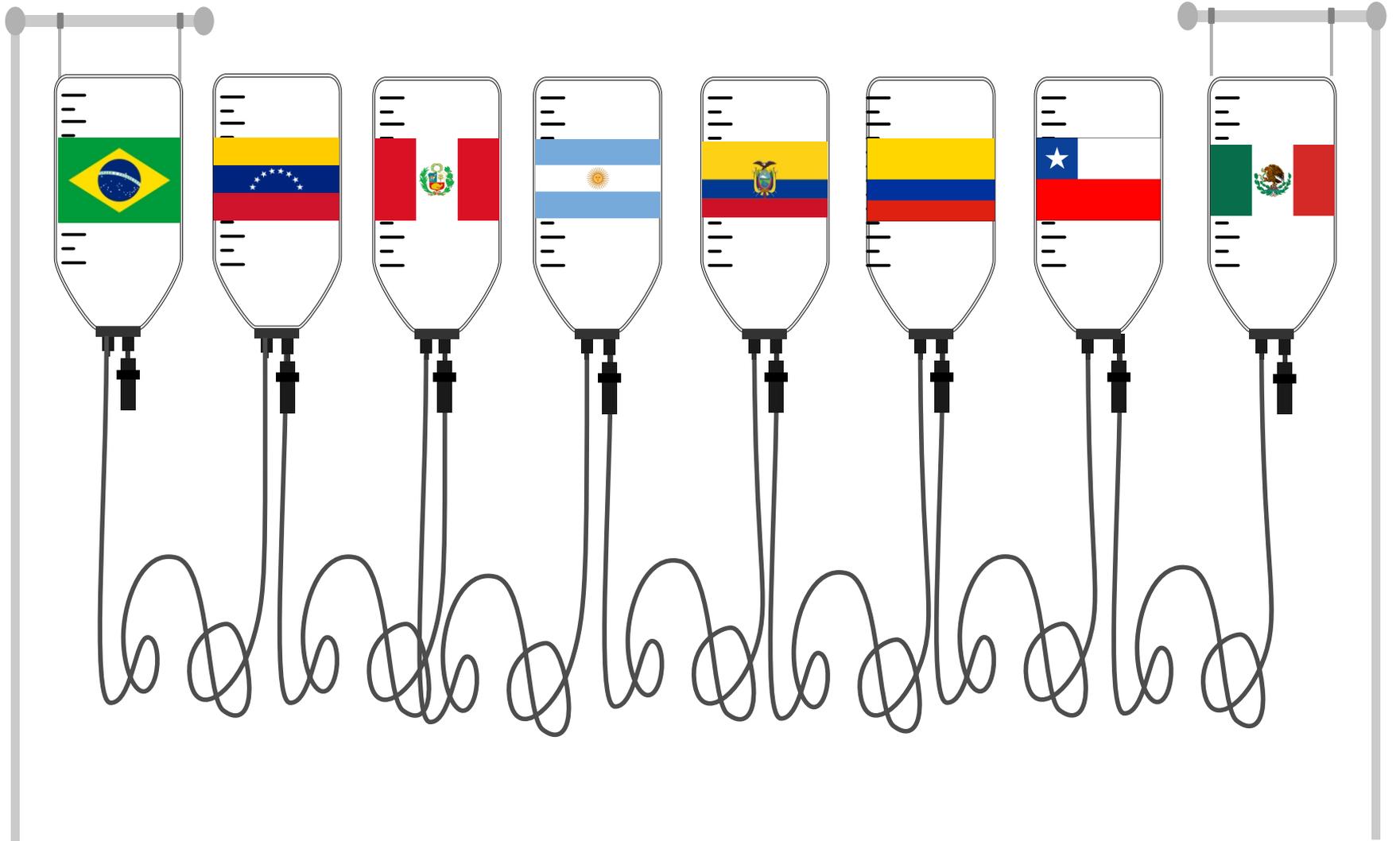




Main news:

- Health sector
- Regulatory affair
- Pricing policies
- And others.



Brasil

Perú

Venezuela

Colombia

Chile

Mexico

Argentina

Ecuador

## Medical devices industry in Brazil invests 2.8% of its revenues in innovation

In a meeting promoted by ABIMO, the objective was to promote the technological development of the industry and to promote activities in the Paraíba Valley region. Taking into account the impact that innovation has on the industry, Braile Biomedica revealed to ABIMO that it invests approximately 3.1% of its turnover in Innovation + Development, a figure higher than the 2.8% invested by the national industry that manufactures instruments and materials for medical, dental and optical articles (PINTEC Innovation Survey, published in 2014 by the IBGE).

"Innovation is a constant pursuit, especially in healthcare, whose life is extremely short. There is always someone making something better or cheaper," said Braile.

Among the difficulties faced by people who want to innovate in Brazil are the lack of government incentives that drive the lending industry in private banking; the shortage of professionals with multidisciplinary experience to offer a wider vision to the sector; and barriers related to intellectual property innovations, says ABIMO.

Source: Journal The hospital



## Venezuela

### Only 10% of public and private laboratories are operational

Caracas. - The health crisis gains ground and depletes the laboratories of the country to practice routine exams. Marta Herrera, a spokeswoman for the Venezuelan Association of Bioanalysts, warns that only 10% of the laboratories in hospitals and clinics are operative to meet the demands of patients.

The guild warns that on Sunday Luciani, an enclosure attached to the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security and in practice has assumed patients referred by centers of the Ministry of Health, has two years without hematology.

The situation is complicated in the field of tumor markers, an area where failures and the shortage of inputs amount to 84.5%, according to the Venezuelan School of Bioanalysts. As of 2012, only 50% of the laboratories specializing in the study of bacteria were inoperative. By 2017, only 25% of the services can be diagnosed and 80% of them present serious failures.

"90% of the equipment and supplies that are required to do laboratory studies are imported and the state does not liquidate foreign exchange to companies to replace them," says Marta Herrera. In 2016, say spokesmen of the guild, the government owed \$ 70 million to that sector. In Venezuela, a country that only invests 1.6% of its budget in health, the humanitarian crisis, decreed in January of 2016 by the National Assembly.

Source: El Universal Newspaper



### Letters of the Government before lack of cash: Up withdrawals, limits of TDC, lower VAT and new ticket

During the last month, the Government has put its letters on the tables to solve the cash shortage, with special emphasis on increasing withdrawals among the banks, from Bs. 600 to Bs. 5,000 per day; raise the credit card limit (TDC), still under study; and apply a discount of 3% for virtual payments up to 2 million bolívares and 5%, for amounts greater than that amount are part of the measures proposed by the Superintendency of Banking Sector Institutions (Sudeban).

For Professor of Economic Policy LUZ, Gustavo Machado, the actions only "mitigate" the lack of monetary pieces, because the Government should focus on "attacking inflation". "The fundamental problem is that we have a high generation of money in an electronic way through the operations of the BCV and public nonfinancial companies whose accelerated rhythm impacts on inflation," he warned.

The expert on the subject of electronic banking, José Grasso Vecchio, sees as a positive signal to encourage the use of electronic banking. "There is a significant movement in the world of reducing cash," he said. President Nicolás Maduro, during his address to the National Constituent Assembly on September 7, instructed the "compulsory acceptance, stimulation and payment of public services by electronic means" and strengthen the new biometric payment system implemented by the Bank of Venezuela (BDV) "BiopagoBDV". Another line of action of the Government is to detect the businesses that work with "advances" of cash and to face the contraband of extraction of money through the Plan of Protection of the Monetary Cone.

Despite this scourge, economic analysts insist that the lag will be maintained until the inflationary spiral, whose rise reached 366.8% in August, was ignored, according to the AN.

Source: Panorama overview

## The Big Poll: with low percentages Vargas Lleras and Petro lead the intention to vote for 2018

The first survey of the Great Survey reflects the panorama that the respondents have about the presidential elections of 2018, the image of President Juan Manuel Santos, the pre-candidates and other topics of national interest.

The Great Survey revealed that former vice president Germán Vargas Lleras and former mayor of Bogotá Gustavo Petro lead the intention of voting for the presidency of the Republic.

Germán Vargas Lleras: 11%

Gustavo Petro: 9%

Sergio Fajardo: 7%

Claudia López: 6%

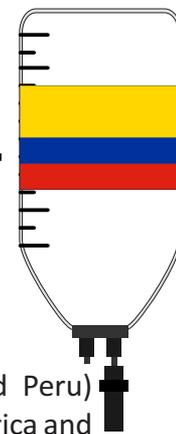
Juan Manuel Galán: 4%

Alejandro Ordóñez: 3%

The Great Survey also evaluated the image of President Santos and revealed that 35% of the respondents have a bad image of the head of state, 47% are regular, 16% are good and do not know / do not respond 2%. Likewise, according to the results of the Great Survey, 63% of the respondents consider that the country is on the wrong path, 29% is good, and 8% do not know / do not respond. Similarly, the measurement shows that for 42% of Colombians have a bad image of the Congress of the Republic, 14% good, 36% regular and 7% do not know not respond.

Source: RCN News

## Colombia



### Pacific Alliance accounts for 57% of Latin American exports

The Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru) accounts for 57% of merchandise trade in Latin America and the Caribbean, compared to a 28% share of regional trade in Mercosur (Southern Common Market) and 11% in the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

The Pacific Alliance is an initiative that aims to create a deep integration area for the free movement of goods, services, capital and people between Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Peru, which already have Free Trade Agreements (TLC). Global value chains have increased interdependence among countries or regions where increasing flows of intermediate input imports imply that national economies lack the capacity alone to produce exportable goods and services to the rest of the world, specializing in some productive activities or stages.

Source: oportimes



## Argentina

### The Challenges behind Medical Implants

The world of biomaterials is large and extensive. Throughout history have been developing and studying different materials in order to replace, replace or improve any part of the body. "Noelia Carrizo, Biomedical Engineer of the Surface Treatment Laboratory of the INTI-Mechanics Center, reported to Telam."

Currently there are different biomaterials and each one has a particular function, ceramic, polymeric and metallic. Within the wide variety of biomaterials, metal implants represent a large part of this vast world. Different types can be found to act as replacement or as fastening devices for different parts of the body: implants such as hip prostheses, bone screws, osteosynthesis plates, elbow implants, knee implants, among others. Several treatments have been developed that are known as acid etching, anodized and blastinated.

Currently, there are around 70 manufacturers of metal implants. From the surface treatment laboratory of the Center of Mechanics of the National Institute of Industrial Technology, we advise and accompany these companies in the development and development of surface treatments that allow a better performance of the product. In this way, we have worked with different products, such as dental implants, knee prostheses, pedicular screws for column, etc.

Source: Telam Newspaper

### Lemus chaired meeting of the South American Health Council of UNASUR-Health

The meeting was held in the framework of the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference held in Washington, USA from September 25 to 29. Carissa Etienne, the director of PAHO and Tedros Ghebreyesus, director of WHO, participated. The Minister of Health of the Nation, Jorge Lemus, headed the meeting of the South American Health Council of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR-Health) with the participation of ministers and health delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and representatives of the South American Institute of Government in Health (ISAGS).

Within the agenda items, the different representatives of the South American nations also addressed the issues of development and management of human resources; the impact of environmental changes on health; risk management of health disasters and food labeling.

Argentina led Board of Directors of the Executive Board of PAHO

In this edition of the Pan American Sanitary Conference, health authorities in the region debated a strategy for strengthening the role of human resources in health in achieving universal access to health; a strategy and plan of action to strengthen tobacco control in the Americas; a policy on ethnicity and health; as well as an action plan for the sustainability of the elimination of measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome and another to strengthen the collection of vital statistics.

In this regard, the Director-General of WHO, Tedros Ghebreyesus, stated during the opening that "universal health coverage is my number one priority," adding that "the path towards universal health coverage will be different for different countries, there is no one-size-fits-all solution, but for all countries, it will relate to strengthening their health systems, as it will include investments in better health information systems and health workers with adequate numbers and capacities to meet modern needs of health," he concluded.

Source: Ministry of Health

## Ecuador between countries that invests from 4% to 6% of GDP in Health

According to the five-year report Health in the Americas 2017, presented by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) during a conference in Washington, only five countries in the region of the Americas invest 6 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The investment in Health of Countries that spend between 4 and 6 percent of their GDP in health (less than the minimum recommended by the WHO) are Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador Paraguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Colombia, Panama.

Cuba, the United States, Canada, Costa Rica and Uruguay were able to comply with this recommendation. According to data from 2014, Cuba is by far the country of the region that most invests, with more than 10 percent, followed by the United States, with just over 8 percent.

Uruguay achieves the 6 percent target, closely followed by Panama, which fails to comply with the WHO recommendation. On the other hand, the countries of Latin America that invest least in health are Haiti and Venezuela. With an investment between 2 and 4 percent of GDP are Guatemala, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Brazil and Chile.

Countries that spend between 2 and 4 percent of their GDP on health (less than the minimum of 6 percent recommended by WHO) Guatemala, Argentina Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Chile. In fact, Costa Rica, Cuba, Uruguay and Panama are also the Latin American countries with the best health indexes, according to a recent global study published in The Lancet.

Source: Medical Newspaper

# Ecuador



## Ecuador achieves worldwide qualification of its medical equipment to cover emergencies

This Friday, September 15, 2017, a verification mission from the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a statement recommending the international qualification of emergency medical equipment (EMT) in Ecuador, in level 2, to deal with emergencies and disasters through rapid and coordinated deployment in national and international territory. Ecuador is the sixth country in the world to achieve this qualification, which will be formally delivered in the coming weeks.

The purpose of this report is to provide a framework for the implementation of the EMT initiative and the commitment to provide humanitarian assistance in health to populations affected by emergencies and disasters.

The qualification aims to have a global list of EMTs that may be available for regional and international deployments that meet defined principles and standards. It will also strengthen the response of mobile hospitals and surgical mobile units nationally and internationally.

The Minister of Health, Veronica Espinosa, said that it is a pride for Ecuador "to have the capacity, human talent, facilities, equipment, political will, resources to support other countries in situations of emergencies and disasters, meeting the highest international standards."

Source: Ministry of Public Health

## MINSA promotes the development of applications to improve health services



More than 300 people, among professionals and students linked to the development of mobile programs and applications, will participate in the Hackathon Minsa-2017, (Marathon of Programmers), which will take place at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, a competition that has aiming to propose technological solutions to improve health services in the country.

Competitors will seek to be recognized as the best technological talent, proposing solutions to established challenges in strategic areas such as: Telehealth, Mobile Emergency Care System, Mental Illness (depression) and Electronic Clinical Histories, among others.

The Hackathon Minsa - 2017 is organized by the General Directorate of Telesalud, References and Urgencies and the General Office of Information Technologies of the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP).

The inscriptions are open through the web: <http://www.minsa.gob.pe/portada/Especiales/2017/hackathon>

Source: Diario La República

## BCR: Trade balance recorded a surplus of US \$ 433 million

In the first eight months of the year a positive trade result of more than US \$ 3 billion was accumulated. The Peruvian trade balance reached a surplus of US \$ 433 million in August of this year, maintaining the positive behavior observed for 14 consecutive months, since July 2016.

In this way, a positive trade result of US \$ 3,151 million was accumulated in the first eight months of the year.

In August, exports totaled US \$ 3,923 million, representing an increase of 20.4% compared to August 2016. This growth was explained by the increase in prices (13.7%) and volume (5, 8%) of the exported products.

The issuing entity highlighted the higher sales of traditional products (23.8%), particularly copper and gold. Non-traditional exports increased by 11.1%, mainly due to higher agricultural, chemical and textile shipments. On the other hand, imports amounted to US \$ 3 490 million in August, 10.1% more than in the same month of the previous year, due to the higher purchases of durable consumer goods, inputs and capital goods.

Source: El Comercio Newspaper



# México



## NAFTA 2.0 does not put the medical device industry in risk in Mexico: AMID

Mexico is the leading provider of medical devices to the Trump government and the dynamism of the industry strengthens it in the face of any outcome of NAFTA.

Mexico City. - Throughout the 23 years of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the medical devices innovation industry in Mexico has experienced a strong strengthening in its commercial relationship with its northern partners, becoming the main supplier for United States.

Mexico allocates 91% of its exports of medical devices to the United States and maintains the largest surplus balance with that country of US \$ 4.706 billion. In more than two decades it has become an attractive market, with government being the main source of demand for products such as medical, surgical and dental or veterinary instruments; catheters and cannulae; articles and appliances for orthopedics or fractures; respiratory therapy equipment and healing material and other equipment for use in hospitals.

In an interview with "El Semanario", Edgar Romero, president of the Mexican Association of the Innovative Industry of Medical Devices (AMID), stressed that the uncertainty involved in the creation of NAFTA 2.0 does not represent a risk to the productive sector. guarantees the continuity of the investment of its 32 global companies in charge of the development, manufacture and commercialization of medical devices of innovative, effective and quality technology.

"Mexico offers the optimal market for skilled, highly competitive labor and Mexico is the leading producer in Latin America and the main supplier in the USA. Geography is also good," said Edgar Romero.

AMID is one of those present at the NAFTA negotiating tables, represented by Ana Riquelme, executive director.

Source: El Semanario Journal

## The export of medical devices generated for Mexico a surplus of 4,443 million dollars

In the framework of the tenth anniversary of the Mexican Association of Innovative Industries of Medical Devices (AMID), Julio Sánchez y Tépoz, Federal Commissioner for Protection against Health Risks (COFEPRIS), emphasized the enormous importance of this sector as one of the main engines of the Mexican economy.

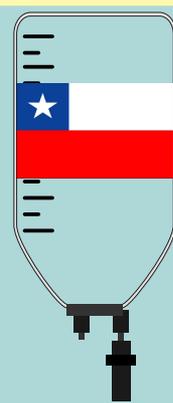
To point out the importance of this dynamic business sector in the healthcare sector, Sánchez and Tépoz pointed out that Mexico is the leading exporter of medical devices to the United States. (the largest market in LATAM); the world's third largest exporter of tubular suture needles; the fourth exporter of medical, surgical, dental or veterinary instruments and apparatus; and the world's fourth-largest exporter of medical furniture, syringes, catheters, cannulas and similar instruments.

In order to contextualize the importance of this sector in figures, we commented that, in 2015, exports of medical devices amounted to 8,406 million dollars, while imports were 3,963 million dollars, which represents a surplus of 4,443 million dollars. The main commercial destinations of our country in the export of medical devices were: US, 7.781 million dollars; France 185 mdd, and Ireland 128 mdd.

In terms of imports, Mexico acquires its medical devices from the following countries: US \$ 2,532 million; China, US \$ 290 million and Germany, US \$ 233 million.

With regard to the Equivalence Agreements signed by COFEPRIS, medical devices with registrations issued by the health agencies of the United States, Canada or Japan obtain their sanitary registration in 30 business days in Mexico.

Source: Codef



## Chile

### Big Data to build health map for all Chileans

Personalized and predictive health care is the goal of future medicine, which could benefit from Big Data in health, an area that is just developing in Chile, according to estimates by Dr. Daniel Capurro, co-director of the National Center for Health Information Systems, CENS.

Through analysis of large volumes of data, as is currently the case in other disciplines such as astronomy, it will be possible to identify diseases before they are evident, to monitor pathologies that affect us in real time without the need to go to a consultation, and to access a map of the state of our organism so that specialists can analyze it. The term Big Data refers to the use of large volumes of data and information so complex that they are difficult to process through traditional database management tools.

Capurro comments that an average person is in contact with the health system in less than 0.2% of the year. So how is it possible to know what happens to her the remaining 99% of her time? Through Big Data, access to information on patients' lives can be accessed in areas where access was not available.

Health data today can be obtained through electronic clinical records, telemedicine devices, epidemiological, nutritional, genetic information and even through the use of wearables - electronic devices that are incorporated in some part of the body and interact with the user, such as smart watches, sneakers with GPS, among others. Making sense of all that great volume and variety of data is the promise of Big Data in Health.

Source: Diario El Mostrador

# Other information of interest

## **Regulatory authorities with PAHO and Associations of Medical Devices Companies**

The twelfth meeting of the Management Committee of the International Forum of Medical Device Regulators (IMDRF) was held in Ottawa, Canada, from September 19 to 21, 2017. The workshop was held for the device industry with PAHO-Pan American Health in which 23 regulators from 18 Latin American countries participated. ADVAMED with FDA and CDBL presented the importance of consistency and good regulatory practices in the countries.

## **ADVAMED MEDTECH IN SAN JOSE CALIFORNIA**

With the participation of more than 3,000 attendees, discussions are taking place in front of the incursion of the innovation of medical technology, its impact on the population and its disruptive processes with sectors such as information technology and health regulation. The event was invited to the panels officers of FDA and ANVISA.

ANVISA Commissioner, Renato Porto, spoke at the MedTech conference - 9/25/2017 - San Jose, California

Oporto announced a list of measures that reduce the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspection of the facility and import times and expressed interest in returning to MedTech 2018.

## **September 27 meeting of ALDIMED**

On the 27th, members of ALDIMED met in San José, California, where the different associations with their representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela participated. Topics such as the presentation of the project to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the consolidation of the ALDIMED website and the participants were informed the new mail to receive and send information about it [coordinacion@dmaldimed.com](mailto:coordinacion@dmaldimed.com). Also mentioned was the importance of the Inter-American Coalition on Business Ethics, which took place on September 24.



## **Inter-American Coalition of Business Ethics for the Medical Technology Sector**

The Inter-American Coalition of Business Ethics for the Medical Technology Sector met in the framework of the MedTech Conference on September 24, 2017 with representatives of 11 associations from 6 countries, including the Chamber of Medical Devices and Health Supplies on behalf of ANDD of ALDIMED - Latin American Medical Devices Guild. As a result of this meeting, the Coalition approved Bogota principles to promote ethical interactions between the medical device industry and its stakeholders (Integrity, Independence, Relevance, Transparency and Advance); as well as the terms of governance and the action plan in which the next face-to-face meeting is held in the framework of the V International Forum of Medical Devices in Bogota in November.

