

A National Perspective to Global Public Health Challenges

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Abstract: Recent evidence suggests an increase of HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men (MSM) in settings with concentrated epidemics, including Latin America. The lecturer presents results of a national HIV seroprevalence survey of MSM in 24 cities gathering sites in Mexico and a survey of transgender women in Mexico City. Socio-demographic and sexual risk behaviors predicting the probability of infection in this population are assessed.

Arantxa Colchero is a Health Economist and Associate Professor at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. Her main research interests are the use of econometric techniques to study the determinants of obesity and the design and evaluation of innovative strategies to prevent and reduce obesity, including fiscal approaches. Other interests are the design and evaluation of structural interventions for HIV prevention and treatment among high-risk populations.

DR. HUGO LOPEZ-GATELL, MD, PHD

Researcher, Center for Infectious Disease Research, Director of National Health Surveys

THE 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC AT THE EPICENTER: RELEVANT LESSONS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Abstract: In April 2009 Mexico identified and warned the globe regarding the first influenza pandemic of the 21st century. The World Health Organization and other international public health agencies led a global response to this emerging threat. For the first time, provisions of national and global influenza preparedness plans and the 2005 International Health Regulations were implemented and tested. Lessons learned during this pandemic at the epicenter of this pandemic are relevant for improving global, regional and national capabilities for Health Security. This seminar will detail some well-known facts and uncover some widely assume myths regarding the origins of the 2009 influenza pandemic.

Hugo Lopez-Gatell is a Physician and infectious disease Epidemiologist. After five years working as Internal Medicine Specialist at the National Institute of Medical Sciences, he became Assistant Director General of Epidemiology for Mexican Ministry of Health. During his tenure (2008 - 2012) he led a comprehensive reform of the National Public Health Surveillance System and served as the first National Focal Point for the 2005 International Health Regulations. In this capacity Dr. Lopez-Gatell was responsible to investigate the epidemiology of first known cases of the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic and alerting WHO on the early signals of this emerging threat at its outset.