



Editorial

Integrating clinical and public health evidence in complex contexts: implications for health systems

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Marcelo Korc

Pan American Health Organization, Representative in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Correspondence

✉ korcmarc@paho.org

ORCID: 0000-0002-7111-7340

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Integración de evidencia clínica y salud pública en contextos complejos: implicaciones para los sistemas de salud

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In today's global health landscape, characterized by the coexistence of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and the growing influence of social and environmental determinants, the generation of contextualized scientific evidence has become a fundamental input for decision-making in health systems and services. The complexity of these scenarios demands integrative approaches that link knowledge generation, clinical practice, public health, and health management to sustainably optimize health outcomes.

In this issue of *Alerta*, published by the National Institute of Health of El Salvador, the diversity of contributions reflects the breadth of the clinical and public health challenges facing health systems. The three case reports included document conditions with unusual presentations or rare complications, underscoring the importance of strengthening diagnostic capabilities, particularly through the appropriate use of imaging tools and timely clinical surveillance.

The original articles provide relevant evidence on the epidemiological profile and performance of health services in the country. In addition, the analysis of nursing staff experiences during COVID-19 care offers valuable lessons, particularly regarding on the institutional response in times of high demand and pressure.

In today's global health landscape, communicable and noncommunicable diseases coexist.

Social and environmental determinants are becoming increasingly influential. In this context, generating context-specific scientific evidence is now a key input for decision-making in health systems and services. The complexity of these scenarios demands integrated approaches. These approaches link knowledge generation, clinical practice, public health, and health management. The goal is to optimize health outcomes sustainably.

In this issue of *Alerta*, published by the National Institute of Health of El Salvador, contributions reflect both clinical and public health challenges facing health systems. The four case reports included here document conditions with unusual presentations or rare complications. This underscores the importance of strengthening diagnostic capabilities, particularly through appropriate imaging tools and timely clinical surveillance. The original articles and the brief communication provide evidence on the country's epidemiological profile and health service performance. One study examines patients with primary liver tumors treated at a hepatopancreatobiliary referral center. It offers a significant characterization of this issue. Another study analyzes machine learning models for identifying factors linked to mild cognitive impairment in older adults in El Salvador, using a secondary analysis of the 2022 National Mental Health Survey. This incorporates a robust, contemporary methodology. Together, these contribu-

tions highlight the decisive role of social, economic, and environmental factors in shaping epidemiological profiles. They illustrate the need for intersectoral responses to address these challenges comprehensively and sustainably. Three narrative review articles delve into topics crucial for clinical practice and public health. Imaging findings of pulmonary progression in patients with COVID-19 help improve our understanding of this disease and its sequelae. The analysis of the first National Mental Health Survey in El Salvador highlights the need for innovation and leadership in generating strategic decision-making information. The review on telemedicine in pediatric patients with chronic diseases demonstrates the potential of digital technologies. These can improve access, continuity, and quality of care. A letter to the editor reflects on health as a fundamental human right. It discusses the constitutionalization of the social state and the right to health in El Salvador. This approach offers key elements for analyzing the organization and function of the health system. It highlights the need for robust regulatory frameworks, strong institutional capacities, and mechanisms that guarantee equitable, timely, and quality access to health services. The 12 articles in this issue underscore the need for stronger integration between knowledge generation, clinical practice, public health, and health management. Developing robust information systems, promoting applied research, and continuous training of human resources are essential pillars. These are needed for advancing more resilient, efficient, and sustainable health systems. National scientific output, such as that found in this issue of *Alerta*, plays a strategic role. It helps adapt interventions to local contexts and strengthens evidence-based decision-making. In turn, this contributes to improving the health and well-being of the Salvadoran population. This type of evidence under scores the decisive role of

social, economic, and environmental factors in shaping epidemiological profiles and the need for intersectoral responses that comprehensively address these challenges.

The narrative review articles address key topics for clinical practice and public health. Imaging findings of pulmonary progression in patients with COVID-19 contribute to a better understanding of the disease and its sequelae. Furthermore, the analysis of the first National Mental Health Survey in El Salvador highlights the importance of innovation and leadership in generating strategic information for decision-making. Finally, the review of telemedicine use in pediatric patients with chronic diseases demonstrates the potential of digital technologies to improve access, continuity, and the quality of care.

This issue also includes a letter to the editor focusing on the constitutionalization of the social state and the right to health in El Salvador. This approach provides key elements for analyzing the organization and functioning of health systems, highlighting the importance of solid regulatory frameworks, robust institutional capacities, and mechanisms that guarantee equitable, timely, and high-quality access to health services.

Taken together, the articles in this issue highlight the need to strengthen the linkages among knowledge generation, clinical practice, public health, and health management. The development of robust information systems, the promotion of applied research, and the continuous training of human resources are essential pillars for moving toward more resilient, efficient, and sustainable health systems.

National scientific output, such as that featured in this issue of *Alerta*, continues to play a strategic role in adapting interventions to local contexts and in strengthening evidence-based decision-making, thereby contributing to improving the health and well-being of the Salvadoran population.