

The Second International Workshop on Mesoamerican Nephropathy (MeN 2015) will take place 18-20 November in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Chronic Kidney Disease of non-traditional causes is a public health problem of such a magnitude and severity in Mesoamerica that the Central American Council of Ministries of Health recently called for urgent action. MeN 2015 is a response to this call for action and will result in the most exhaustive and up-to-date review of the science, elucidating the potential causes of the epidemic, research recommendations, as well as possible solutions for prevention and mitigation.

The First International Research Workshop on Mesoamerican Nephropathy was held in Costa Rica in November 2012, organized by the Program Health, Work and Environment ([SALTRA](#)). A scientific consortium, CENCAM, was initiated at the workshop, with the mission to contribute to knowledge generation, and to promote and facilitate activities to reduce the occurrence of Chronic Kidney Disease of unconventional (and hitherto unknown) origin in Central America and Mexico.

The workshop has a number of ambitious aims. These are:

1. Update progress in understanding the epidemic and on the research questions identified at First International Workshop
2. Share ongoing studies in the region and determine current knowledge gaps
3. Articulate key hypotheses and strength of evidence to date with a view to focus future research on the most promising hypotheses
4. Promote and establish new relationships and collaboration among researchers and clinicians
5. Identify data and data sources to inform the public, clinicians and policy makers in understanding the evidence base of interventions and solutions for the prevention and treatment of CKDnT
6. Strengthen the communication and support structure for researchers in the region
7. Publish proceedings, peer-review papers summarizing progress and research gaps and host in-person CENCAM meeting

The Workshop will bring together up to 80 researchers from around the world who are working on the epidemic to share knowledge, techniques, data and hypotheses.

More information about CENCAM, and the MeN 2015 organizing committee members are available here:

http://www.regionalnephropathy.org/?page_id=141

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In addition to NIEHS, the organizers of this workshop would like to recognize and thank the many institutions and organizations that have contributed both time and funds so generously to make the event possible.

Pan-America Health Organization (PAHO)

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

International Society for Nephrology (ISN)

University Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA)

The Program Health, Work and Environment (SALTRA)

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