

Reports of advisory bodies

Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR)

Report by the Secretariat

1. This document summarizes the deliberations of ACHR at its forty-eighth session (Manila, 20–21 November 2007).
2. The Committee reviewed progress in developing a **WHO health research strategy**. It noted with satisfaction that the provisional guiding principles have been embodied in a draft strategy, whose potential vision, mission and goals had been identified through extensive consultations. The Committee discussed in detail several aspects of the draft strategy and made recommendations. The strategy will also take into consideration the outcome of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property and a project reviewing the history of research at WHO. ACHR expressed satisfaction at the appointment of a full-time project manager who would be responsible for developing the strategy and urged continued high-level commitment and support for the initiative.
3. ACHR also reviewed progress in preparations for the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health (Bamako, November 2008). It expressed satisfaction that objectives and mechanisms to achieve them had been set, and that a programme and recommendations for ministers had been drafted. ACHR was also informed of the planned preparatory meetings. It was encouraged by the appointment of a full-time senior adviser to assist in this task.
4. The Committee received a report on the work of its Subcommittee on the Use of Research Evidence. It welcomed the formal establishment of WHO's Guidelines Review Committee with membership approved by the Director-General and the fact that its first meeting was planned to be held before the end of 2007. A training workshop has also been planned and the guidelines for guidelines are being revised. ACHR expressed satisfaction that resources had been allocated to support the work of the Guidelines Review Committee and urged the Organization to continue to support its future development, including extension of activities to regional offices.
5. The Committee noted with satisfaction progress made in other areas of work, including ethics, clinical trials registration, evidence-informed policy networks, fair health research contracting, emergency preparedness, and harmonization with regional ACHRs. It also considered a proposal to

follow up on the 2002 report on genomics and world health¹ which outlined the expected impact of genomics on global public health in both developed and developing countries.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

6. The Board is invited to note the report.

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¹ *Genomics and world health: report from the Advisory Committee on Health Research*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.