

AFSM Focal Points Meeting

Executive Summary

May 14, 2024

Agenda

1. Palabras de bienvenida / Welcoming remarks
Hernán Rosenberg
 2. Seguimiento a la reunión anterior / Follow up to the earlier meeting.
 - a) Directorio de AFSM / AFSM database.
 - El proceso de la lista de la base de datos de los miembros / Membership Database List Process.
Karen Gladbach
 - b) Valor agregado de la AFSM / AFSM Added value
 - Encuesta de Opinión a los miembros de AFSM / Opinion Survey of AFSM members
Philippe Lamy, Comité de Extensión / Outreach Committee
 3. Propuesta de un estudio cualitativo sobre los jubilados y el mantenerse sanos cuando se envejece / Proposal for a Qualitative Study on Retirees and Staying Healthy as they Age.
Maria Teresa Cerqueira, Comité de Envejecimiento Saludable / Healthy Aging Committee
 4. Certificate of Entitlement (CE)
Rolando Chacón
 5. Otros / Other
Hugo Prado.
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1. In his message, AFSM President Hernan Rosenberg stressed the importance of focal points to ensure contact of former PAHO/WHO staff members with AFSM and with each other. He mentioned the particularly good meetings of the Board of Directors with the Director of PAHO/WHO. As a result, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was prepared between PAHO/WHO and AFSM as a step towards formal recognition of AFSM. The MOU has been revised and is ready for signature in the coming days. Another result has been that the Director has completed the team of officers dealing with retirees' insurance claims (SHI). It is expected that the response to the claims of the former officials will be improved.

The Director has also instructed country offices to appoint a focal point in each office to coordinate and collaborate with AFSM focal points and former staff members in each country. Focal points are requested to contact the PAHO/WHO office and inform AFSM of the name of this officer.

Hernán Rosenberg will take part in the WHO AFSM Global Council in Geneva. The results will be reported at a future meeting.

2.

a. Karen Gladbach reported on the process for updating the membership database.

This process includes:

The electronic publication of the AFSM Membership Directory,
Updating the Database (PAHO SharePoint), adding latest information and ensuring that member information is correct,

Ensure Members' Access to the directory,

E-mail: a pdf version will be sent by e-mail each year, and

update of the PAHO/AFSM web page, with a link only for members to secure valuable information (pensions, health insurance),

The contents of the database are being reviewed and will include: the category of members, (includes up to three people), the identification number of the PAHO/WHO employee, year of Membership in the AFSM, region of work with the WHO: AMRO, EMRO, SEARO, HQ, etc. and other particular data (if you have a dependent, is a member of the board of directors, a committee or focal point, etc.)

Special thanks were given to Hortensia Saginor who oversaw the database for many years.

b. Philippe Lamy, reported on the status of the opinion poll that the Outreach Committee launched at the end of April. Recalled the purpose of the Committee's work and the chronology of activities prior to the launch of the survey: Preliminary meeting with the Focal Points (July 2023), launch postponed to the last quarter of 2023, approved by the new AFSM Board in 2024

A blast message in four languages was sent to all members (04/30/2024), inviting them to take part in this survey using the AFSM website. The period for receiving responses will be from May 1 to June 30, 2024. The support of the Focal Points was requested to: respond to the survey, with a two-pronged approach: as an AFSM member and as a Focal Point and promote the survey (online or PDF, available in Word) to members in their country or region, follow up on the responses and optionally, receive a copy of them.

The next steps will be a report from the Extension Committee of the results to all members and a proposed agenda of priorities and actions for the future, under the responsibility of the Board, committees, groups, and volunteers.

3. Maria Teresa Cerqueira presented on behalf of the Committee on Healthy Aging a detailed proposal for a qualitative study with PAHO retirees in several countries of the region and of various ages.

The study aims to gather life experiences and insights into how AFSM members stay healthy as they age and to have a deeper understanding of how AFSM can help keep members healthy as we age.

The study is prepared and includes Literature review, study questions and key questions, purpose and goals, study design and methods, dissemination plan, budget, ethical considerations, and bibliography.

The Committee has asked the focal points, to whom the full document has been sent, to review it and give their opinion on the appropriateness of conducting this study.

It was asked that the proposal can take place after the completion of the survey that is being developed by the Extension Committee.

Philippe Lamy asked the Committee on Healthy Ageing to share the results of a survey that was launched by this committee in 2023.

4. In reference to the Certificate of Entitlement (EC) of the United Nations Pension Fund. Rolando Chacón thanked the focal points for helping former members fill out their EC on time. They have been asked to report whether it was possible to contact the former members who did not send their EC up to the date of this meeting and what method they used to send it. They were also asked to provide the name and e-mail contact of the officer in charge of pension issues for former staff members at PAHO/WHO country offices.

5. Other Topics

Hugo Prado concluded by thanking the excellent participation and interest shown in this meeting and informing the next steps, which are:

- a. A draft document on the Responsibilities and Roles of AFSM Focal Points will be sent in the coming days. Document that includes Background, definition, general responsibilities, and specific responsibilities. The Focal Points are requested to review the document and give their opinions and contributions to complete it.
- b. The Focal Points were asked to update their data including:
Email, Phone(s), Contact at the PAHO/WHO Country Office.