Past, Present and Future
National Bioethics Commission of Mexico

Manuel H Ruiz de Chávez
President of the Council

May 2016
Acknowledgement

For giving distinction to the National Bioethics Commission of Mexico

- Amy Gutmann, Chair
- Lisa M. Lee, Executive Director

Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues
Impact of a National Commission

- Legal framework
- Bioethical infrastructure in Mexico
  - State Bioethics Commissions
  - Research Ethics and Hospital Bioethics Committees
- Public policy and Bioethics
- Capacity building and outreach
- International stage
- Prospective goals
Normative Framework’s Evolution

• 1992 Creation as advisory body

• 2005 **Presidential Decree**, as deconcentrated body with new legal mandate as Commission

• 2011 Reform Health Act (LGS) by **Legislative Initiative** as mandate for the establishment of Hospital Bioethics Committees (HBC) and Research Ethics Committee (REC)

• 2012-2014 Mandatory Provisions and amendments for HBC and REC by **Secretarial Agreement**, under guidelines issued by the Commission

• 2016 Amendments for registry of REC by the Commission

• 2016 Modernization initiative by Presidential Decree
Bioethics in the Health Sector Program 2013-2018

Place bioethics as management and development policy of the Universal Health System of Mexico

- Promote respect for dignity and human rights in health care
- Foster Ethics, Scientific Integrity and Protection of Human Rights in research
- Incorporate bioethics in the design and evaluation of public policies and resource allocation
- Consolidate the institutional infrastructure on Bioethics
- Promote international bioethics criteria, in accordance with national policies
- Foster a bioethical culture among society, capacity building and vocational training on bioethics with focus in health

Legal Framework of Conbioética
### Institutional Infrastructure for Bioethics

#### Federal Secretariat of Health
- **National Bioethics Commission**
  - International organizations: OMS, UNESCO, Council of Europe.
  - National Bioethics Commissions

#### 32 States
- **State Bioethics Commissions**
  - Higher Education Institutions
  - Academies
  - Associations and NGOs

#### Health and Research Institutions
- **Research Ethics Committees**
- **Hospital Bioethics Committees**

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Bioethical infrastructure in Mexico
State Bioethics Commissions CEBs

- Fostering bioethics culture among health providers and the general public
- Collaborating in the design of public policies from a bioethical perspective
- Outreach on bioethics via print and broadcast media
- Advice on emerging bioethical dilemmas in the region
- Encouraging education on bioethics in health care and research
- Review bioethical issues within the National Health Council

Annual National Meeting of CEBs

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CEB</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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Bioethical infrastructure in Mexico
Coordinating Bioethical Committees

Hospital Bioethics Committees HBCs
- 1200 hospital units must have HBCs
- 623 Registered Committees
- The General Health Council set the establishment of HBC as a standard for hospital certification

Research Ethics Committees RECs
- 2016 Mandatory Provisions for registration of RECs by the Commission
- Strengthening oversight and accreditation
- Institutional public and private committees vs. private associations. Conflict of interest

Bioethical infrastructure in Mexico
Commission’s Structure

Operative Structure
- Executive Director
- National Capacity Building
- Center for the Knowledge of Bioethics
- Planning & Academic Development
- Administrative Support

Council
6 Honorary Members

President / National Commissioner

Operative Structure

STAFF
- Directors 5
- Administrative Support 7
- Multidisciplinary staff 44

Female 28
Male 28
Total personnel 56

Bioethical infrastructure in Mexico
Council of the National Bioethics Commission

The Council is integrated by six honorary members for a 4 years’ term and a President, appointed by the Secretary of Health

Functions

- Advisory body of the executive, legislative and judicial powers
- Issuing statements at national and international level in bioethics
- Approval of regulatory documents: annual programs and guidelines
- Accountability and transparency

Bioethical infrastructure in Mexico
Council’s XLVIII Ordinary Session

JUNE, 2014

Participants
Distinguished attendees: Andrew Haines, Amar Jesani, David Koepsell, Fabiola Leyton, Francisco León, Hans van Delden, John Harris, Jonathan Moreno, María Casado, Maria Patrão, Michael Selgelid, Peter Kemp, Simón Kawa, Søren Holm; and the Council

Topics
• NECs Challenges
• Public policies
• Climate change
• Research ethics
• Education on bioethics

Bioethical infrastructure in Mexico
Commission’s Headquarters
The venue inaugurated in 2012, allows the proper development of the Commission’s goals.
### Deliberation & Advisory Role

The Commission issues pronouncements and assessments regarding dilemmas and public policies

- ARTs and Surrogate Motherhood
- End of Life Dilemmas and Palliative Care
- Biomedicine and human rights
- Research Ethics and scientific integrity
- Education & research in bioethics
- Bioethics and marijuana
- Mental health
- Emerging medical technologies
- Management databases (big data)
- Resource allocation
- Bioethics and Justice/Legal issues
- Migration
- Climate change and public health
Strategic National Links

• Supreme Court of Justice
• Congress of the Union Health Commissions
• National Commission of Superior Courts of Justice of the United Mexican States CONATRIB*
• National Council for Science and Technology
• National Autonomous University
• National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions
• Academies and associations on science, medicine and bioethics

*Agreement with the National Commission of Superior Courts of Justice of Mexico

Providing judges updating on informed consent, death with dignity, ARTs, vulnerability, children and women rights, data protection
Accession of Mexico to the Oviedo Convention
Permanent Observer State to the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO), Council of Europe

Fostering the accession of Mexico to the Convention on Biomedicine and Human Rights to strengthen the legal framework

Joint efforts with DH-BIO Laurence Lwoff and Javier Arias to raise awareness on the significance of the Convention, at the global and regional level
Capacity Building for Health Professionals

Network on Bioethics

- Training sessions for Committee Members, supported by the National Council for Science and Technology
- Free educational materials
- 1293 trained members

Course/Workshop on palliative care

- For medical residents, available on-site and online
- Space to tackle dilemmas in daily practice
- 20 residents and 9 hospitals, including participation from Nicaragua

Capacity building and outreach
CONBIOETICA Official Channels

CONBIOETICA Videoconferences 2012-2016

12WCB & 10GSNEC, 2014
Mexico City

Capacity building and outreach
CONBIOETICA Library

- Hard copies and virtual information on bioethics by a network of libraries
- Over 6,500 classic and current works
- First Congress of Libraries and editors exhibition books on Bioethics 2012
- Free services for national and international users
- Worldwide databases: EBSCOHost, MEDLINE Complete, MedicLatina, Nature & BioOne

http://amigosconbioetica.salud.gob.mx/
CONBIOETICA Gazette

Quarterly publication for outreach on bioethical issues

Topics addressed

- Social determinants of health
- Research with animals
- Palliative care
- Capacity building
- Emerging technologies
- Culture and bioethics
- Public policies in health
- Migration
- Addiction and bioethics
Relevant Publishings

Outreach in Bioethics

Bioethics, Migration & Health

Research Ethics, Scientific Integrity

Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine

Death with Dignity

12th WCB

10th GSNEC

Distributive Justice and Health

Selected themes

Capacity building and outreach
Global Scope

- Strategic partnerships with NECs
- Associations and Organizations
- International collaboration on global concerns
- Higher Education Institutions
- University of Miami-WHO collaborative center, 2010

Permanent Observer State to the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO), Council of Europe

UNESCO Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee

11th Global Summit of National Ethics/Bioethics Committees, Berlin 2016

UNESCO Second Regional Seminar of NECs in Latin America and the Caribbean, El Salvador 2015

Commitment to promote the establishment of Latin America and the Caribbean NECs

International stage
International Support

- 2011 in Mexico City: the Americas gathered to foster dialogue, cooperation and exchange experiences on bioethics
- **Mexico-Declaration** on Regional Bioethics Collaboration, and the **Proposal** to host the 10th Global Summit

*Stephen L. Hauser, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues*
Mexico 2014, Bioethics World Host

Finding Paths Through the World

Inspire the Future to move the World

International stage
Mexico 2014, Bioethics World Host
Participation of the US Presidential Commission

10th Global Summit of National Bioethics Committees

Finding Paths Through the World

Christine Grady
Research Ethics on Pediatrics

More than 100 representatives from 57 countries

12th World Congress of Bioethics

Inspire the Future to move the World

Christine Grady’s Keynote Speech

1,200 attendees from 5 continents
30 keynote speakers
NEC’s Activities on migration

• 2013 Seminary and book *Bioethics, migration and health analysis and implications of human rights*: Xochitl Castañeda, Health Initiative of the Americas UC, and James Dwyer, State University NY.

• 2014 Special issue of the Gazette *Bioethics migration and health*.

• 2015 X Regional Meeting of State Bioethics Commissions with the topic *Health for migrant populations*

• 2016 11th Global Summit NECs Berlin Marketplace session on Migration
Prospective Goals of the Commission

- Updating of the legal and operational framework as a permanent process
- Strengthening the institutional infrastructure for bioethics
- Establishing of an oversight body for Hospital Bioethics and Research Ethics Committees
- Broadening the Commission’s field of operation as the links with the National and Local Courts of Justice
- Forums with experts and the general public to address pressing social and bioethical concerns
- Ensuring basic bioethics training and certification for committee members
- Raising awareness among the general public
- Addressing conflicts of interest on private Research Ethics Committees
NATIONAL BIOETHICS COMMISSION OF MEXICO

France

Belgium

http://www.conbioetica-mexico.salud.gob.mx/