



# Plenary Speaker



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at the World Health Organization  
Geneve, Switzerland*

### Talk title: Global perspectives of health technologies

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. One of the 13 strategic objectives of WHO is to improve access, quality and use of medical products and technologies.

WHO and Member States, recognize that medical devices are essential for health care delivery, unfortunately, still many have no access to even basic essential medical devices and they live and die undiagnosed and untreated!.

WHO has been working to assess the global situation of policies for health technologies, resources, units, programmes, hospital infrastructure and high end costly medical equipment in every Member State, through the Baseline Country Survey. Then to respond to the needs, WHO has worked along with NGOs like IOMP and IFMBE, in the “medical devices technical series” that provides a guidance in policy making, needs assessment, donations, procurement, inventories, maintenance and health technology assessment.

The need to have knowledge of available professional human resources to deal with health technology led to develop and publish a database of universities which hold programs in biomedical engineering worldwide. Finally, the need for innovative, affordable, appropriate technology for global health concerns, was first addressed in the past World congress 2009 in Munich, which led to the launch of the First call. In 2012 a 3rd call has been made to compile the innovative technologies that can be applied in low resource settings and the impact in health is still to be measured.

Much is still to be done in the health technologies arena and the first step is dissemination through all the members of the IUPESM/IFMBE/IOMP to raise the awareness of the need and the use of tools and guidance to promote a better access to appropriate technology to the population globally to enhance better health care services.

## BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Adriana Velazquez Berumen was born in Mexico, where she studied Biomedical Engineering. In 1986 she did a Postgraduate Degree in Case Western Reserve University in the United States of America. She has more than 25 years of professional experience in biomedical and clinical engineering. She had been a consultant to PAHO/WHO since 1991 for the Latin-American region. She worked in private and public sector hospitals in Mexico for 16 years. In 1989, she was elected president of CORAL, the Regional council of biomedical engineering for Latin America. In 1991, she was elected president of the Mexican Society of biomedical engineering (SOMIB). She was in the board of directors and was elected chair of the clinical engineering division of IFMBE. In 2000, she was invited to work in the Ministry of Health in Mexico, where she was nominated in 2004 as the General Director of the National Centre for Health Technology Excellence (CENETEC), responsible of HTA, clinical engineering and e-health at national level. Later, this center became a member of INAHTA and then a collaborating Center to WHO. As member of the Mexican delegation, she presented a proposal, which 2 years later was approved by all member states of the World Health Assembly, as the WHA60.29 Health Technologies Resolution, in May 2007.

In October 2008 she joined the World Health Organization, and in 2009 became coordinator of Medical Devices at the Essential Health Technologies Department. Since then she has been leading the Global Initiative on Health Technologies at WHO, with funds from the Gates Foundation. She organized the WHO First Global Forum on Medical Devices, the first WHO call for innovative technologies and the first Baseline Country Survey on Medical Devices in 2010 and the publication of 8 books of the medical devices technical series. She will continue to advocate for improving access to safe and effective medical devices globally.

# Adriana Velazquez Berumen

