

Welcome to the AI4PEP bi-weekly News Brief.

This week we bring you some exciting updates from Team MENA: **Brazil, Dominican Republic, and Peru.**

Welcome on Board!

- Congratulations to Dr. Emmanuel Musa who recently joined the AI4PEP Secretariat as the new Network Manager. Unveiling the Manager at the last bi-weekly meeting, Prof. Kong announced that he was a renowned medical practitioner, and global health specialist with a well-rounded portfolio. Musa had reportedly served as a pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response specialist at the World Health Organization (WHO) in different parts of the Global South. He is committed to use his expertise, experience, and networks to advance the AI4PEP agenda.



Congratulations Dr. Lopez!

- Dr. Patricia Espinoza Lopez announced that she had been appointed to take a new position as the TB Research Unit Coordinator for the Tropical Medicine Institute. The appointment created room for more synergies, and room for more opportunities for collaboration. Her appointment comes at a time when the AI4PEP Network is in the process of strategizing and strengthening its intersectional approach towards research, as well as gender and diversity in its structures.



Administrative Updates

- Prof. Kong acknowledged that it was time for the next batch of funding to be processed from York University's end. He committed to write an email within the next couple of days to communicate the requisition process and the requirements thereof. He mentioned that he anticipated the process to be smooth going forward because all the administrative issues had been handled during the first disbursement. The requirements for the second disbursements were as follows:
 - 1. A **Narrative report**; detailing activities implemented, successes and challenges. Where applicable; partners were encouraged to share links to events and publications.
 - 2. A **Financial Report**; detailing expenditures of the first tranche of funding.
 - 3. **Receipts**.

- For further details about closing the first tranche of funding and requisitioning for the second, Sheriff would be in touch with the different teams, they were also encouraged to email the secretariat for support where necessary.

Finalization of Clearance Processes

- Prof. Kong cautioned the teams that it had been over 6 months since the clearance processes had been initiated, and it was imperative that it came to a conclusive stage. He mentioned that AI4PEP was required to adhere to reporting deadlines, and they may be forced to move to the next stage in coming weeks. He invited the different teams to offer their updates on whether they foresaw an imminent granting of clearance and legitimacy by their various governments or not, and if there was anything that the secretariat could do to expedite the process. Teams DOMR, Brazil, and Peru were reportedly working with their universities to expedite the process. They all expressed their intentions to FastTrack the process and not risk losing the funds. They understood that failure to attain the necessary documentation could result in AI4PEP extending the funding to waitlisted applicants.



Team Brazil Pioneering Groundbreaking Research

- It was reported that the team had won some media publicity after the Communications and Community Engagement Officer penned a

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success story about Prof. Carvahlo and Bruno's recent participation at the COP28 where they had a chance to showcase some groundbreaking research under the auspices of Prototypes for Humanity. The story further highlighted the participation of another AI4PPEP protégée from Jimma university in Ethiopia, and it was published via the IDRC website.

- English: <https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/news/fostering-participation-young-researchers-cop28>
- French: <https://idrc-crdi.ca/fr/nouvelles/favoriser-la-participation-des-jeunes-chercheurs-et-chercheurs-la-cop28>
- Dr. Robson reported that another undergraduate student team member had won an award for coming up with groundbreaking research on the early detection of breast cancer.



<https://www.cps.sp.gov.br/projeto-de-fatec-poe-ia-a-servico-do-combate-ao-cancer-de-mama/>

DOMR

- Prof. Colome shared that he had been recently appointed to the position of Chief Editor of a reputable science and Health Journal, ***Ciencia y Salud, the academic journal of the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)***. Prof. Colome extended a warm welcome to colleagues who intended to join the editorial team, as well as

those who were interested in publishing their work via the journal. He added that there were no charges required for publications. He encouraged his colleagues to connect with him if they were interested.

- Prof. Colome also mentioned that his team was ready and happy to contribute towards the proposed regional paper on the **“Digital Determinants of Health.”** They were also in communication with the Network Manager and the rest of the cohort regarding the paper.

