

C/Can 2025

Latin America

Regional Forum

**Financing Sustainable
Cancer Control Solutions
in Latin America**

**18-19 April 2018
Montevideo, Uruguay**

On 18-19 April, C/Can 2025: City Cancer Challenge (C/Can 2025) held its first Latin American Regional Forum to bring together leading health and finance experts with city leaders from Asunción and Cali – the first C/Can 2025 cities in Latin America to drive forward sustainable financing solutions for cancer care and treatment in the region. The Forum was hosted by the Presidency of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay in partnership with the Municipality of Montevideo.

Over the course of one and a half days, more than 60 participants from across the region, including government leaders, directors of national cancer institutes, health finance experts, impact investors, economists of development banks, multi-lateral institutions, the private sector and academia engaged in high-level panel discussions on opportunities to harness innovative financing mechanisms for quality cancer care.

In parallel, delegates also participated in a series of interactive briefing sessions and workshops focused on exploring sustainable financing solutions for specific cancer care priorities in Asunción and Cali previously identified as part of the C/Can 2025 process.

The forum was spearheaded by the C/Can 2025 City Health Financing Lab, a new C/Can 2025 initiative that supports cities in low- and middle-income countries to access sustainable financing solutions for their cancer care priorities. The Lab will deliver technical assistance to cities through a series of consultations designed to help them design sustainable business models and secure blended financing solutions for three major investment priorities, as part of a comprehensive C/Can 2025 city plan.



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Opening Ceremony

In his opening address, His Excellency Dr Tabaré Vázquez, President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, discussed the burden of cancer and NCDs in Latin America as a result of the marked social and economic disparities in the region. NCDs are the principal cause of mortality in the region, with approximately 4,3 million deaths each year, the equivalent of the combined populations of Asunción and Montevideo. Initiatives such as C/Can 2025 are critical to help the region reverse this growing epidemic.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Dina Mired, UICC President-elect thanked the Presidency of Uruguay and the City of Montevideo for hosting the Forum and taking a leading role regionally and globally in the fight against NCDs. She encouraged the assembled experts to take a hands-on approach to the Forum Workshops, because they have the opportunity to develop concrete solutions for Asunción and Cali that will serve as lessons for the global community.

Ing. Daniel Martínez, Mayor of Montevideo, closed the ceremony, noting the critical role that President Vázquez has played in championing the need to curb the NCD epidemic globally and regionally. Mayor Martínez highlighted how the City and national government work closely together to implement a range of health and wellness initiatives with focus on prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care. The ceremony concluded with a presentation of the keys to the city of Montevideo to HRH Princess Dina.



“Multisectoral work with relevant actors in urban environments in planning and implementing solutions for the treatment of cancer could be the key to advancing in conquering this disease.”

President Vázquez
President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay





Opening Plenary

Learning from Latin America to Advance Financing for Cancer Globally

Through a series of presentations on strategies for financing cancer treatment and care in Latin America and globally, the Opening Plenary set the stage for Forum discussions aimed at driving solutions in C/Can 2025 cities that can serve as examples for global efforts.



Plenary speakers:

Dr Susan Henshall, Director, C/Can 2025

Dr Jorge Basso, Minister of Health of Uruguay

Prof. Dr Alexander Romyantsev, Director of Dmitry Rogachev National Research Center of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology, Russia

Ms Melissa Rendler-García, Director of Regional Operations, C/Can 2025

Ms Laura Solia-Shellaby, City Health Financing Lead, C/Can 2025

Prof. Dr Álvaro Luongo, Director of the National Cancer Institute of Uruguay and President, Comisión Honoraria de Lucha contra el Cáncer

At a dedicated meeting of key representatives of the National Cancer Institutes of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), discussed mechanisms to develop collaborations on technical assistance across the Latin American region with a focus on Asunción and Cali. The role that the Network of National Cancer Institutes can play in establishing and supporting collaborations between C/Can 2025 cities was discussed. Additionally, the contributions of the IAEA in providing technical assistance where essential cancer technology and its applications can address specific needs identified in the cities were discussed and will be further explored.

The City Cancer Challenge started as a spark of an idea 18 months ago. Since then, the initiative has been testing bold new ideas and strategies with Asunción and Cali, each city embracing a new way of working to first identify their needs and then to deliver tailored solutions. Dedicating specific efforts to City Health Financing has been one of the boldest ideas to come out of our discussions with cities.

Dr Susan Henshall, Director of C/Can 2025

Increased child survival rates in Russia are due to coordinated efforts at all levels of government and the medical network to undertake clinical trials and technologies transfers. This model can be replicated in other low- and middle-income countries.

Dr Alexander Romyantsev, Director General of the Dmitry Rogachev National Research Center of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology

Problems cannot be solved with just technical activities; it needs political commitment and support. We need to see how we can build sustainable policies with adequate financing to overcome fragmentation. Critical strategies for addressing cancer mortality include data, primary prevention, integrating palliative care and strong collaboration with international agencies, such as PAHO for the purchase of essential medicines.

Dr Jorge Basso, Minister of Health of Uruguay

*Since launching C/Can 2025 in Asunción and Cali, both cities have made enormous strides in identifying their priority areas, developing activity plans and implementing City-to-City, Regional and International collaborations to start addressing their critical needs in order to improve cancer treatment and services. **Ms Melissa Rendler-García, Director of Regional Operations***

*Accessing adequate financing for NCDs is a key issue for the global health community. The C/Can 2025 cities in Latin America have the opportunity to lead by example by developing tangible new and sustainable financing solutions for their cancer priorities. **Ms Laura Solia Shellaby, City Health Financing Lead, C/Can 2025***

The acquisition of technology has to be regulated as national policy. Countries need to consider different and innovative ways to acquire technology.

Dr Álvaro Luongo, Director of the National Cancer Institute of Uruguay and President, Comisión Honoraria de Lucha contra el Cáncer



Workshop Sessions

Workshop 1: Opportunities for Sustainable Investment to Advance Cancer Care and Treatment in C/Can 2025 Cities

During this interactive session, regional and global experts heard presentations from healthcare leaders from Asunción and Cali about their priorities for sustainable investment in cancer care and treatment, and the rationale for selecting each project as an investment priority as part of a comprehensive C/Can 2025 city cancer plan. Experts provided feedback on the initial plans and prospective business models emerging for each priority, and offered advice on action plans and the global expertise required to secure investments.

A presentation on innovative financing models was provided by Mr Jeff Berger of Dalberg Global Development Advisors, which included case studies of relevant financing tools to help inform the workshop discussions.

Workshop 2: Innovative Financing Solutions for Cancer Care in Cities

Building on Workshop 1, this session allowed C/Can 2025 city leaders and assembled experts to delve deeper into specific investment priorities discussed during the morning session. Four facilitated breakout sessions were held to begin charting the path from ideas to action.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

- Expansion of Radiotherapy Services in Cali
- Expansion of PET/CT Services in Cali
- Expansion of Immunohistochemistry and Molecular Testing in Cali
- Strengthening Diagnostic Laboratory Services in Asunción

Project leads presented initial cost estimates, expected demand for services, context on the payment models in each city/country, key actors, and potential investment scenarios. Session participants then “pressure-tested” project ideas and brainstormed on key next steps.

Participants discussed biggest challenges and risks for each project to attract investment. Key questions included: What are the fundamental business strengths and challenges? What are the financing challenges? What are the potential challenges to securing traditional financing, such as loans and leases? What are opportunities for cross-sector partnerships to advance solutions? What will investors need to see in this plan to believe it’s an attractive investment?





Closing Plenary

The Forum concluded with summaries of outcomes reached in the afternoon breakout sessions followed by a panel of top global experts in health finance and NCDs. Panelists discussed opportunities to advance innovative and sustainable financing solutions for cancer care and treatment in Latin America and around the world, building on on-going global initiatives and the activities of the C/Can 2025 Key Learning Cities in Latin America.



“Consensus building between the public and private sector is required to make lasting progress. Paraguay should use C/Can 2025 as a laboratory to then drive health system reform.”

Mr Santiago Peña
Former Minister of Finance, Paraguay



Panel speakers:

Mr Santiago Peña, Former Minister of Finance, Paraguay

Dr Ferdinando Regalia, Division Chief Health and Social Services, IADB

Dr Luis Orlando Perez, Senior Health Specialist for Latin America, World Bank

Mr Pablo Ferreri, Deputy Minister of Finance, Uruguay

Dr Victoria Eugenia Soto, Health Economist, PROESA: Centre for Studies in Social Protection and Health Economics

Moderated by Ms Fabiola Salman, Dalberg Global Development Advisors, panelists reflected on possible solutions including:



A costed roadmap to reach SDG 3.4 is still missing, and prevention, early detection and treatment for cancer will be key to reach this. The biggest challenge in many countries in Latin America is the conversation with ministers of finance. We tend to focus on costs, but it is also important to talk about cost efficiency. Prioritisation of costs is especially important in countries with low resources. A challenge in all big cities is optimizing resources. If cities aren't well organised and the management of the network is not organised, it's difficult to have a good return on investment. I'm a traditional financier but we also need to incorporate non-traditional financing, including philanthropic donations as complimentary. **Dr Ferdinando Regalia, Division Chief, IADB**

Health reform in Uruguay started 10 years ago and it was not easy. It is absolutely necessary to bring finance experts to the table to discuss health issues. The integrated national health system in Uruguay solved all fragmentation issues. Philanthropic financing can work in low- and middle-income countries – it can be a transition until they move to being high-income countries and have social policies embedded. But these policies cannot be sustained through charity. This is not a long-term solution. They will need public financing. This is why political will is so important. **Mr Pablo Ferreri, Vice Minister of Finance of Uruguay**

The Colombian health insurance system has two regimens – contributive and subsidised. Colombia's population is aging and sustaining the insurance system is becoming more complicated. Although it is understandable and necessary to increase access to the most up-to-date treatments, how do we maintain quality? **Dr Victoria Soto, Health Economist, PROESA**

Ministers of finance need to sensitise themselves to the challenges in health, and the health sector has to be aware of financing challenges. Human development will come in countries that have strong public health systems and prioritising attention to NCDs. You cannot advance without addressing NCDs. The C/Can vision should be how to unite these two ideas – it's not just a medical issue, it's the design of the system. This demands creativity to make limitless resources from the limited, and we need to sit at the table together. **Mr Santiago Peña, Former Minister of Health of Finance of Paraguay**

Poverty and NCDs are closely related and the World Bank has a myriad of investment projects that work on health system strengthening rather than specific topics. The portfolio is heavily oriented towards NCDs and working on surveillance and analysis of large databases, including diagnostic coding and stratification of risks, which helps us model. **Dr Luis Orlando Perez, Senior Health Specialist for Latin America, World Bank**



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Union for International Cancer Control

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