



Etikos
FUNDACIÓN



2025 Collaborative Research Symposium

**"One Health: Science, Ethics
and Society in Collaboration"**

Results Report

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
2025

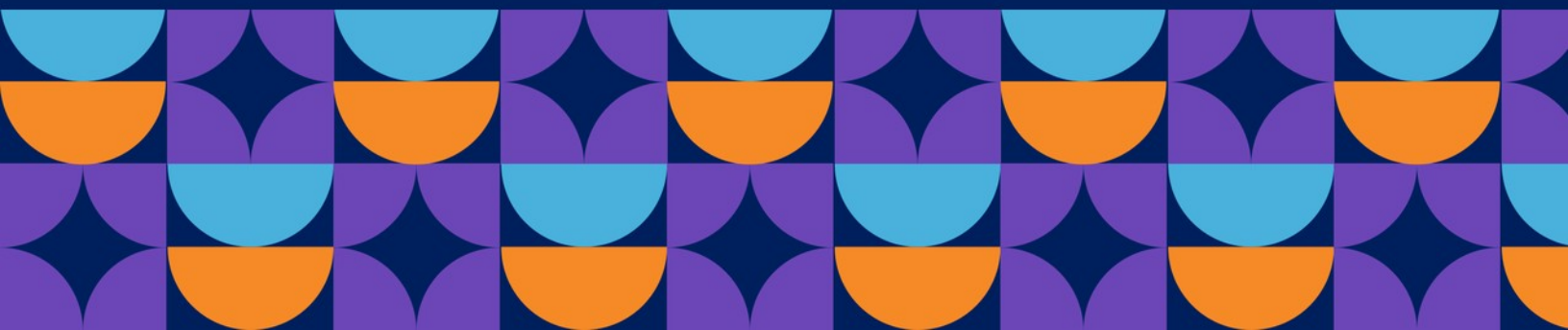


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Executive Summary

On Friday, November 21, 2025, the Etikos Foundation and its partner institutions held the 2025 Collaborative Research Symposium, under the theme “One Health: Science, Ethics and Society in Collaboration,” at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Conceived as the Foundation's most significant event of the year in health research, the Symposium set out to serve as a meeting point for the co-creation of knowledge and capacity building, in a context where health, environmental, and social challenges are increasingly interconnected. Universities, research centers, community leaders, and researchers from across the region came together for a strategic day of dialogue and innovation.

The event brought together researchers, students, health professionals, representatives of academic institutions, government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners, in a full day from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. structured around three thematic sessions: the general framework of the One Health approach, capacity building together with TGHN LAC and Wellcome Trust, and the multidisciplinary challenges facing science.

The day's program included the opening led by Dr. Julio Canario and Rev. Fr. Marco A. Pérez Pérez, an international keynote lecture, three panel discussions, a session dedicated to youth voices in research, presentations on institutional innovation (Twinning, RêvÉtica, Etikos Academy), a scientific poster exhibition, and a recognition segment that included the announcement of a new research grant call.

The Event in Numbers

Indicator	Result
Event date	November 21, 2025
Registered participants (registration form)	146
Participants with confirmed attendance	100
Speakers, panelists, moderators, and presenters (counted from the agenda)	32
Organizations represented	28
Student and young-researcher presenters (Youth Voices)	7
Awards, grants, or recognitions given in 2025	3

Indicator	Result
Countries represented among speakers (confirmed minimum)	3 (DR, U.S., Honduras)

Participants

According to the registration log, the Symposium received 146 sign-ups, of which 100 confirmed attendance on the day of the event (Status = “Attended”), while 46 remain on record without an attendance mark — a roughly 26% increase over the 116 participants registered in the 2024 edition.

The breakdown by sex was determined from the actual data captured by the Foundation. Of the 146 registrants, 145 have this information on record; the remaining one was excluded from the calculation as it is an institutional registration rather than a person.

Indicator	Result
Female — of registrants with valid data (145)	93 (64%)
Male — of registrants with valid data (145)	52 (36%)
Female — of confirmed attendance (100)	60 (60%)
Male — of confirmed attendance (100)	40 (40%)

Target Audience

The Symposium's call for participation was designed to bring together the different players in the country's health and research ecosystem. According to the official outreach materials, the event was aimed at:

- Researchers and academics seeking new partnerships and perspectives.
- Graduate students and young professionals looking to connect with sector leaders.
- Health professionals and hospital administrators interested in innovation and quality.
- Members of ethics committees, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders.
- Public policy officials in science, health, and the environment.

Organizations and Partners

The Symposium was organized by the Etikos Foundation together with the Institute for Collaborative Research (INDEICOL), the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones en Salud

Materno Infantil Dr. Hugo Mendoza (CENISMI), the Instituto de Salud Mental y Telepsicología (ISAMT), and Laboratorio Clínico y Banco de Sangre Ana, with the support of the Institute for Collaboration in Health (ICH), The Global Health Network LAC (TGHN LAC), and Wellcome Trust.

Based on the official agenda, participation can also be confirmed — as the home institutions of speakers, panelists, and moderators — from UCATEBA, MISPAS, MESCyT, MEPYD, University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), The University of Texas at San Antonio, UNIBE, Universidad Central del Este (UCE), PUCMM, Instituto de Enfermedades Infecciosas y Parasitología Antonio Vidal (Honduras), MESH/University of Oxford, UASD, and OS Caribbean.

The Symposium's outreach materials also anticipated participation by experts from INTEC (Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo) in the “One Health in Focus” track; this institution does not appear, however, among the confirmed panelists in the final agenda reviewed for this report, so it is recommended to verify directly with the Foundation whether its participation took place through another channel.

The Foundation confirmed a total of 28 organizations represented by the 2025 attendees as a whole; the detailed list by organization is still pending confirmation.

Context, Purpose, and Objectives of the Symposium

In a world where health, environmental, and social challenges are increasingly interconnected, the Etikos Foundation and its partners conceived the 2025 Collaborative Research Symposium as the year's meeting point for the co-creation of knowledge and capacity building, bringing together universities, research centers, community leaders, and researchers from across the region.

Today's health and social development challenges call for responses grounded in evidence, institutional collaboration, and ethical commitment. The 2025 edition framed these challenges under the One Health approach, which holds that scientific decisions must weigh their human, animal, and environmental consequences as a single system; without that integrated view, good science can still produce bad policy.

Under this lens, ethics was treated not as a separate chapter but as a decision-making system under uncertainty, and research was judged by its capacity to translate into public policy and real improvements in health services. This outlook builds on the 2024

Symposium, which had already raised the need to address global problems through solutions that transcend disciplinary, institutional, and national boundaries.

"One Health requires that scientific decisions weigh human, animal, and environmental consequences as a single system."

— Editorial synthesis of the Symposium, Etikos Foundation

Thematic Tracks of the Symposium

The 2025 program was organized around three major discussion tracks, each developed through lectures and expert panels:

- One Health in Focus — explores the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health, from Dr. Caitlin Cotter's keynote lecture to the panels with specialists from UNIBE and UCE, examining how to apply this approach in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean.
- Innovation and Capacity Building — gives voice to the Foundation's mentoring and scholarship programs ("Youth Voices") and presents institutional solutions such as Twinning and the RêvÉtica platform.
- Multidisciplinary Challenges in Science — a debate on the future of research with experts from UASD and OS Caribbean, covering research management, open science, climate change, and the ethical challenges of artificial intelligence.

Objectives

The 2025 Symposium set out to promote a research culture grounded in collaboration, scientific integrity, and social responsibility. Specifically, it sought to:

- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge among researchers, institutions, and sectors around the One Health approach.
- Give visibility to relevant projects, research, and experiences from the Dominican Republic and the region.
- Strengthen training opportunities for students and young researchers through the Etikos Foundation's mentoring, scholarship, and research club programs.
- Connect national initiatives with regional and international networks, particularly TGHN LAC, Wellcome Trust, and MESH.
- Discuss, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the challenges of research management, open science, climate change, and the ethics of artificial intelligence.

Program Structure

The program ran from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., organized into three thematic sessions in addition to the welcome, poster, lunch, recognition, and closing group-photo segments. The following schedule details the full course of the day, based on the official agenda:

Time	Activity
7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Welcome remarks by Dr. Julio Canario and exhortation by Rev. Fr. Marco A. Pérez Pérez, with the participation of Kara McArthur (TGHN LAC) and Dr. Matthew Dacso (UT San Antonio).
8:15 – 8:40 a.m.	Session A — Keynote lecture: “One Health in Action: Integrating Epidemiology, the Environment, and Communities,” Dr. Caitlin Cotter.
8:40 – 9:25 a.m.	Q&A session, moderated by Dr. Manuel Colomé (INSIS, FCS/UASD).
9:25 – 10:40 a.m.	Panel 1 — Challenges and Opportunities of the One Health Approach in the Dominican Republic.
10:40 – 11:00 a.m.	Coffee break.
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Session B — Panel on community engagement and implementation research in One Health projects.
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Scientific poster session.
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch.
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Youth Voices in Action — mentoring, scholarship, and research club programs.
3:00 – 3:40 p.m.	Cultural innovation and continuous improvement in research processes — Twinning, RêvÉtica, and Etikos Academy.
3:40 – 4:30 p.m.	Session C — Panel: Science, Ethics, and Society in Collaboration (interdisciplinary challenges).
4:30 – 4:45 p.m.	Recognition segment and announcement of the One Health Research Award 2026 call.
4:45 – 5:15 p.m.	Closing remarks and group photo.

Opening of the Symposium

The opening of the Symposium was led by four academic and institutional authorities:

- Dr. Julio Canario, President of the Etikos Foundation — welcome remarks.
- Rev. Fr. Marco A. Pérez Pérez, Rector of UCATEBA — opening exhortation.
- Kara McArthur, Executive Director, The Global Health Network LAC.
- Dr. Matthew Dacso, Director, Charles E. Cheever Jr. Center for Medical Humanities & Ethics, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

The opening led into the keynote lecture by Dr. Caitlin Cotter, the day's first academic activity.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Canario noted that the Symposium had become a strategic meeting point for scientific progress, knowledge generation, and the promotion of good research practices, and stressed that the initiative reaffirms the Foundation's and the organizing institutions' commitment to scientific strengthening and ethical rigor in the country. For participants, he added, the event represents a unique opportunity to interact with experts and colleagues from the country and abroad, share experiences, build collaborative networks, and reflect on the challenges and opportunities in the scientific, ethical, and social spheres.



Opening of the 2025 Collaborative Research Symposium

Conferences and Presentations

The 2025 Symposium featured the participation of three international professionals, whose contributions shaped the conceptual framework for the day: the keynote lecture by Dr. Caitlin Cotter, the moderation by Dr. Matthew Dacso, and the panel participation of Dr. Katia López.



Caitlin Cotter, PhD, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM (Epi)

Assistant Professor, Global Infectious Disease Epidemiology — Department of Epidemiology and Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). Keynote lecture: “One Health in Action: Integrating Epidemiology, the Environment, and Communities,” followed by a Q&A session moderated by Dr. Manuel Colomé, Director of INSIS, Faculty of Health Sciences/UASD.



Matthew Dacso, MD, MSc, FACP

Director, Charles E. Cheever Jr. Center for Medical Humanities & Ethics; holder of the James J. Young, Ph.D. Endowed Chair for Excellence in Medical Education and the Marvin Forland, MD, Distinguished Professorship in Medical Ethics, Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine, The University of Texas at San Antonio. Moderated the Session A panel on challenges and opportunities of the One Health approach in the Dominican Republic.



Katia López, MSc

Epidemiologist, Research and Academic Management Unit, Hospital Escuela; member of the Instituto de Enfermedades Infecciosas y Parasitología Antonio Vidal (IAV) and The Global Health Network team, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Master's in Epidemiology, Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia. Panelist in the Session B discussion on community engagement and implementation research in One Health projects.

Panels

Panel 1 — Challenges and Opportunities of the One Health Approach in the Dominican Republic

Moderator: Matthew Dacso, MD, MSc, FACP (UT San Antonio).

- Indhira De Jesús, independent environmental consultant.
- Dr. Marcos Núñez, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, UNIBE.
- Dr. Marcelle Landestoy, Director of the School of Veterinary Medicine, Universidad Central del Este (UCE).

Panel 2 — Community Engagement and Implementation Research in One Health Projects

Moderator: Dr. Michelle Jiménez, PRIME-Salud Coordinator, PUCMM.

- Dr. Katia López, researcher, Instituto de Enfermedades Infecciosas Antonio Vidal, Honduras.
- Dr. Aidé Cornielle, Head of the Emerging Diseases and Molecular Biology Research Laboratory, UCE, and President of INDEICOL.
- Luis Felipe Arias, M.A., MESH Regional Coordinator (University of Oxford) and Director of Research, Etikos Foundation.

Panel 3 — Science, Ethics, and Society in Collaboration (Interdisciplinary Challenges and Responses)

Moderator: Prof. Raúl Hernández, faculty member, School of Communication, UASD.

- Dr. Rafael Montero, faculty member, School of Public Health, FCS/UASD — “Challenges of Research Management from Higher Education Institutions.”
- Dr. Manuel Made, Founding President of OS Caribbean — “Advancing Open Science in the Dominican Republic.”
- María Magdalena García, M.A., faculty member, School of Public Health, UASD — “Climate Change and Health Equity: Geospatial Evidence and Research Opportunities.”
- Dr. Edwin Santana, faculty member, School of Philosophy, UASD — “Research Ethics in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.”

Scientific Participation and Emerging Researchers

Unlike the 2024 edition, which organized new researchers' participation into a formal Pecha Kucha session, in 2025 this component was folded into the “Youth Voices in Action” segment, moderated by Dr. Olga Jape Collins, Director of Education at the Etikos Foundation, featuring short presentations from participants in three programs:

- Mentoring Program — Eliamer Brito and José Aquino.
- Scholarship Program — Fernando Domínguez and Wasindi Chea.
- Research Clubs — Katrina Alcántara (co-founder of Club MEDIC, medical student, UASD), Braymin Rivera, and Alejandro Jiménez.



“You Don’t Need to Be a Genius, You Need to Start” — Ms. Katrina Alcántara, co-founder of Club MEDIC and medical student, UASD, in the Youth Voices segment

The “Cultural Innovation and Continuous Improvement in Research Processes” session (moderated by Dr. Alin Gil) also presented three institutional initiatives from the Etikos Foundation:

- Twinning and collaborative networks: “From Cooperation to Co-Creation,” by Dr. Julio Canario.
- RêvÉtica, a regulatory-compliance solution for Research Ethics Committees, by Eddys Mendoza, M.A., Director of the Ethics Unit and Chair of the Etikos Foundation's Research Ethics Committee (CEI).

- Etikos Academy and its commitment to cultural innovation, by Dr. Olga Jape Collins.

The program confirms a scientific poster session from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.; the count and list of titles of papers submitted and presented were not available at the time of this report.

Recognition

The closing segment of the day (4:30–4:45 p.m.) included a recognition segment honoring three figures from the country's research and bioethics community: Dr. Selma Zapata, President of the National Bioethics Commission; Dr. Olga Jape Collins, Director of Education at the Etikos Foundation; and Brenda Segura, Director of Operations and Finance at the Etikos Foundation. The segment closed with the announcement of a new research grant call, presented by Luis Felipe Arias, M.A., Director of Research.



Recognitions presented at the close of the Symposium and announcement of the One Health Research Award 2026 call

The 2024 edition awarded the Dr. Andrés Peralta Cornielle Ethics Research Scholarship to three winners, in addition to recognitions for best Pecha Kucha presentation and best scientific poster. The 2025 edition recognized the career and contributions of Dr. Zapata, Dr. Jape Collins, and Ms. Segura, and closed with the announcement of the 2026 call in tribute to Dr. Andrés Peralta Cornielle.

2026 Call for Proposals: Continuing the Peralta Cornielle Legacy

The announced call — officially the “Dr. Andrés Peralta Cornielle Ethical and Collaborative Research Award 2026” — explicitly revives the name of the individual honored in the 2024 edition, giving that recognition institutional continuity. It is a Small Grants program under the One Health approach, aimed at strengthening local capacity for a healthier, more sustainable future in the Caribbean.

Proposals must fall within themes such as zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, antimicrobial resistance from a multisectoral approach, socioecological determinants of health, public-policy analysis for adopting One Health strategies, community engagement, scientific communication strategies, ethical considerations in cross-sector research, health-program evaluation, and identifying barriers and facilitators in implementing interventions.

The program is aimed at early-career researchers based in the Dominican Republic, with an original idea not previously submitted to another contest or scientific conference, and availability to take part in a mentoring and continuing-education program. The selected project will receive USD \$1,000 in seed funding for a 9-month project, plus access to the Etikos Academy mentoring and training program; honoraria may not exceed 50% of the total budget.

2026 Call Timeline	Date
Call opens	November 21, 2025
Call closes	February 15, 2026
Eligibility notification	March 20, 2026
Final committee decision	April 3, 2026
Official project start	April 13, 2026

Key Outcomes

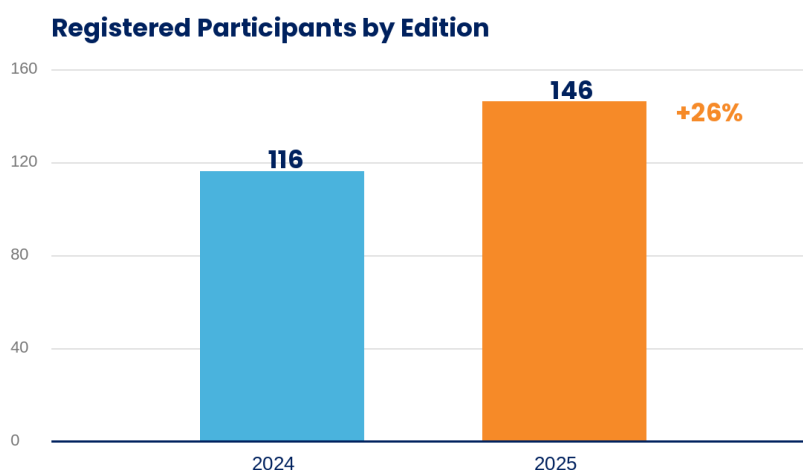
Beyond attendance and agenda, the Etikos Foundation prepared an editorial synthesis of the 2025 Symposium — not a formal agreement signed by attendees — that proposes a framework for weaving together science, ethics, and community under the One Health approach. This synthesis identifies four conditions for scientific collaboration to work in practice:

- Clear governance — committees with a public mandate and open-data protocols from the start of every project, enabling traceability and accountability among participating institutions.
- Shared impact metrics — population-health and equity indicators, not only academic metrics, that reflect research's real effect on communities.
- Structured community participation — advisory councils with ongoing feedback, rather than a one-time consultation at a project's start or close.
- Aligned funding — funds that reward multisector outcomes and transparency, not only traditional academic output.

On the applied-ethics side, the same editorial synthesis identifies five operating principles: active transparency in data handling and decision-making; equity and non-discrimination in access to research benefits; proportionality of risk relative to expected benefit; data stewardship across its entire lifecycle; and responsible communication, avoiding alarmism and properly contextualizing scientific uncertainty.

The Foundation's editorial synthesis further proposes a practical roadmap for teams looking to translate these principles into public policy and community action: define the systemic problem and measurable goals; map relevant stakeholders and agree on data governance from the outset; build public transparency dashboards; iterate with communities through small pilots that are evaluated and progressively scaled; and audit ethics and equity quarterly with external review.

In terms of reach, turnout grew compared with the previous edition: the 146 sign-ups in 2025 represent an increase of roughly 26% over the 116 participants registered in 2024.



Participant Feedback

Participant feedback is a central component in assessing the Symposium's impact. For the 2025 edition, no evaluation survey results were available at the time of this report; it is recommended that the same instrument be applied in future editions, ideally via QR code during the event's closing.

As a reference, in 2024 the closing survey received 13 responses, with 100% of participants rating the topics as useful, and identifying punctuality and time management as the main areas for improvement.

Institutional Learnings

Organizing an event of this scale — 146 registrants, 32 speakers/panelists/moderators, and a nearly ten-hour day spread across three thematic sessions — leaves operational lessons relevant to future editions.

No operational feedback specific to the 2025 edition was available at the time of this report in areas such as the scientific call for papers, coordination among teams, logistics, sound, or the registration process. It is recommended that the Foundation document these learnings internally in the weeks following each edition.

Recommendations for the Next Edition

One concrete outcome already underway from this edition is the announcement, made during the Symposium itself, of the Dr. Andrés Peralta Cornielle Ethical and Collaborative Research Award 2026 call — an institutional continuation of the tribute paid to Dr. Peralta Cornielle in the previous edition.

The next edition can build on the growth seen in 2025 — nearly 26% more sign-ups than in 2024 — by expanding outreach for the scientific call among universities, hospitals, and civil-society organizations, particularly among the five target-audience profiles identified in the call for participation: researchers and academics, graduate students and young professionals, health professionals and hospital administrators, members of ethics committees and community organizations, and public policy officials.

It is also recommended that a sex field and other variables — professional profile, geographic origin, and attendee evaluation — be added directly to the registration form, and that the effective participation of institutions announced in the outreach materials

(such as INTEC) that were not confirmed in the final agenda reviewed for this report be verified.

Finally, the 2026 call's timeline — opening November 21, 2025, closing February 15, 2026, eligibility notification March 20, final decision April 3, and project start April 13, 2026 — gives the Foundation a clear institutional follow-up milestone that can be documented in the next edition of this report.

Conclusions

The 2025 Collaborative Research Symposium reaffirmed the Etikos Foundation's commitment to building a more connected, ethical scientific community capable of generating knowledge relevant to the Dominican Republic and the region, this time guided by the compass of the One Health approach.

The diversity of voices — from academic authorities to young researchers from the Foundation's mentoring, scholarship, and research club programs — showed a growing interest in developing research through collaborative models that integrate academia, health services, government, civil society, and communities. The program's three thematic tracks — One Health in Focus, Innovation and Capacity Building, and Multidisciplinary Challenges in Science — offered a coherent arc from conceptual framework to concrete institutional action, closing with the announcement of a new grant call that carries forward Dr. Andrés Peralta Cornielle's legacy.

"Think in systems, act with ethics, and measure public impact: that is the path to turning science into everyday well-being and fairer policies for all."

— Editorial closing of the 2025 Symposium, Etikos Foundation

The Etikos Foundation thanks the organizing and partner institutions, and the speakers, panelists, moderators, researchers, volunteers, and participants who made this edition possible.

Sources and Methodology of This Report

This report was prepared from a set of primary and public sources, following the same verification standard applied to the 2024 report. Every data point included can be traced to one of the following sources:

- Official Symposium registration log (registration form, 146 rows), used for participation figures.
- Official event agenda, used to reconstruct the detailed schedule and the names and roles of speakers, panelists, moderators, and presenters.
- Official Symposium outreach page (etikos.org), used for the thematic tracks, target audience, and extended biographies of the international speakers.
- Official page for the Dr. Andrés Peralta Cornielle Ethical and Collaborative Research Award 2026 call, used for that call's thematic scope, requirements, funding, and timeline.
- Direct communication with the organizing team (José Aquino and Olga Jape Collins), used to confirm the Symposium's opening, the attribution of Youth Voices participants, and the list of recognitions presented.
- Editorial content published by the Etikos Foundation on the One Health approach, used as conceptual synthesis in the Context and Key Outcomes sections.
- Official event photographs, provided directly by the Etikos Foundation and captioned within this report.
- 2024 Collaborative Research Symposium report, used as a reference for structure and visual identity and for the comparative figures cited in this document.

Glossary of Acronyms

To make a report with numerous partner institutions easier to read, the meaning of the most frequently used acronyms is provided below:

Acronym	Meaning
CENISMI	Centro Nacional de Investigaciones en Salud Materno Infantil Dr. Hugo Mendoza
INDEICOL	Institute for Collaborative Research
ISAMT	Instituto de Salud Mental y Telepsicología
ICH	Institute for Collaboration in Health
TGHN LAC	The Global Health Network — Latin America and the Caribbean

Acronym	Meaning
MISPAS	Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance
MESCyT	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
MEPYD	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development
UTMB	University of Texas Medical Branch
UNIBE	Universidad Iberoamericana
UCE	Universidad Central del Este
PUCMM	Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra
UASD	Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo
INTEC	Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo
IAV	Instituto de Enfermedades Infecciosas y Parasitología Antonio Vidal (Honduras)
FCS	Faculty of Health Sciences

Appendices

The following are recommended as appendices to this report, once available:

- Full official agenda of the 2025 Symposium.
- Official list of participating institutions and organizations.
- Complete results of the evaluation survey, if administered.
- List of scientific papers and posters presented.
- Complete application form and guidelines for the One Health Research Award 2026 call.
- Additional selection of event photographs, properly captioned.



Closing group photo — 2025 Collaborative Research Symposium