

BRICS

Introduction to the new column of the BRICS Medicines Alliance

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The BRICS Medicines Alliance aims to improve medicines access and wise use among the populations of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS). BRICS governments are already collaborating at various levels toward shared socioeconomic and health objectives. The BRICS Medicines Alliance is a peer-to-peer network that will enable you to network, collaborate on priority projects, and contribute innovative solutions.

The objectives of the BRICS Medicines Alliance are:

1. To increase knowledge and understanding of medicines access and use in BRICS countries.
2. To improve the profile and reputation of individuals involved in medicines access and use initiatives from BRICS countries.
3. To strengthen the range, depth, and quality of work on medicines access and use in BRICS countries.
4. To collaborate on priority objectives defined by Alliance participants in its strategic and operational work plans.
5. To contribute innovative solutions that respond to the common and unique medicines needs of populations in BRICS countries.

The BRICS Medicines Alliance is founded on the principles of collaboration and solidarity, and peer-to-peer partnerships. Participation is voluntary and free, and is open to individuals that are researchers, consultants, practitioners, policy makers, managers, or students working on medicines access and wise use in BRICS countries.

The BRICS Medicines Alliance is led by two Country Leaders per BRICS country. Country Leaders appoint Theme Leaders responsible for co-ordinating defined work activities, for example clinical and contract research activities, drug information services, medicines regulation (safety, quality, efficacy, regulatory harmonization), monitoring medicine use and adherence (pharmacovigilance, drug use evaluation), Research and Development activities, health insurance systems to improve medicines access (formularies, medicines financing, etc), medicines and the right to health (improving equity in medicines access), procurement and pricing policies to improve medicines access (pharmaco-economics, health economics).

Based on the concept of producing local evidence for BRICS countries as well as other developing countries, the BRICS Medicines Alliance plans to perform research in the

above areas. From this month on, our research reports will be published in the *Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine*. We encourage our members in the BRICS Medicines Alliance to share their international experience and research results through this column. We also invite other colleagues in BRICS countries to join in the communication and dis-

cussion in order to promote the production and translation of evidence into policies to improve medicines access and use.

More information on the BRICS Medicines Alliance is available at www.brics-ma.org.

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