

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter-American Coalition for Business Ethics in the Medical Technology Sector (23 Sept 2018)

The Coalition met in Philadelphia, United States on 23 September for its fourth meeting. Nearly 30 representatives from 7 of the 10 countries represented on the Coalition were in attendance (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, United States) for a three hour working session. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of the Western Hemisphere (Lynn Costa, Senior Advisor) also joined the discussion. The final agenda, meeting slides, and other materials can be found on the new Coalition website: [www.bogotaprinciples.org](http://www.bogotaprinciples.org) / [www.interamericancoalition-medtech.org](http://www.interamericancoalition-medtech.org). Outcomes from the 4<sup>th</sup> Coalition meeting include:

- **Website:** Launch and showcase of the [new Coalition website](#). Coalition members are to review and provide feedback on the site to [ablasi@crowell.com](mailto:ablasi@crowell.com) by Friday, 19 October. By 2019, the website should be enhanced to include Spanish and Portuguese language functionality. Each Coalition member association should consider using the high-resolution images (attached) of the Coalition logo in Spanish and Portuguese to include as a icon on their own websites that can link directly to the Coalition website. Members who wish to upload key resources or materials to the Coalition website should submit them to [ablasi@crowell.com](mailto:ablasi@crowell.com) as soon as possible. Coalition member industry associations should each nominate a Point of Contact (POC) to be recognized on the website.
- **Translation Support (English, Spanish, and Portuguese):** The Coalition is seeking volunteers who are willing to review important Coalition materials on a periodic basis to ensure accurate translation between English, Spanish, and Portuguese versions. If you are willing to provide screening assistance, please inform [ablasi@crowell.com](mailto:ablasi@crowell.com). Please note this role would be to screen translations for accuracy - not to undertake translation of materials.
- **New Members:** In addition to the government agencies from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and the United States that supported the Coalition's recognition with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at the 2018 Summit of the Americas, the Coalition reaffirmed its commitment to expand membership to additional (non-industry) stakeholders, such as healthcare professional groups and government authorities. **Each association has committed to nominate five organizations** from their country that the Coalition should formally invite to join. Please submit these nominations by 31 October 2018, including the names of individuals, organizations and contact information.
- **Executive Committee Nomination:** Coalition members with an interest to serve on the Executive Committee should review the [Terms of Reference](#) and provide written notice of interest to [ablasi@crowell.com](mailto:ablasi@crowell.com) by Friday, 19 October. At that time, the current Executive Committee will review the nominations and proceed with next steps. Please note that all Coalition members have equal status irrespective of service on the Executive Committee.
- **2019 Survey Assessment:** The Coalition supported undertaking a second survey assessment in 2019 of all medical technology industry association codes of ethics across the Americas, assessing changes to success/gap indicators across four major code implementation areas: (1) governance, (2) alignment, (3) member enterprise adherence, and (4) external stakeholder engagement. The results of this assessment will be measured against the results from Spring 2018 to inform the Coalition's focused capacity-building activities. Coalition members have already each committed to holding at least one annual ethics training for their member enterprises on the Bogota Principles and their codes and the next assessment will measure results in this area.
- **Country Roadmaps:** Member in attendance provided an update on their country roadmap activities:
  - **CADIEM / Argentina:** Provided a [detailed presentation](#) on the status of the association's latest work.
  - **ABIMED / Brazil:** We have phased out direct sponsorship for healthcare professionals (HCPs) and this has been heavily socialized with the HCP community in Brazil. We continue to see challenges in the pharmaceutical sector in having a different view of this practice and it is resulting in confusion within the HCP community about what practice should be adhered to. We are also seeing further developments in transparency legislation.

- **ABRAIDI / Brazil:** The association has initiated a compliance training program for member companies with four modules: (1) SMEs, (2) Compliance Officer Course / Certification, (3) Monitoring, and (4) Certification with Companies. Basic courses have already commenced in August/September 2018 with online participation at 64 companies (87 people) across 13 Brazilian states. The aim is to spread the program to all 80-120 SME member companies within ABRIADI. We would like to see smaller firms more engaged in the compliance officer course. Company level certifications will start soon. The ABRIADI code was updated in 2017 and will be updated again in 2019 to ensure full alignment with the highest standards. An overview of the compliance training program is attached, and here is a link to the ABRAIDI's report "The Cycle of the Supply of Health Products in Brazil", launched in April 2018 at the First Brazilian Forum of Healthcare Importers and Distributors.  
  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WQaQHDSlEaQrgtHzUioB6CvFtX4\\_J48z/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WQaQHDSlEaQrgtHzUioB6CvFtX4_J48z/view?usp=sharing)
- **Ethica Saude / Brazil:** Provided a [detailed presentation](#) on the status of the organization's latest work.
- **ADIMECH / Chile:** Ethics and integrity will serve as one of our new association's core pillars and it is an area that we seek to demonstrate a leadership role in Chile. We are currently working to prepare our association's code of ethics, which will be the highest standard. The association will have a launch event this November and welcome inputs from Coalition members to ensure strong ethics focus/speakers.
- **ANDI / Colombia:** Provided a [detailed presentation](#) on the status of the association's latest work.
- **AMID / Mexico:** AMID has provided a detailed update packet ([to be posted on the Coalition website](#)), detailing a full assessment of the association's code with the Bogota Principles. The association's main focus is expanded coordination with healthcare professionals as well as engaging with the main distributors association, including to join the Coalition and build an aligned code of ethics. ABRIADI (Brazil) has volunteered to partner with AMID in bringing this association into the Coalition's work. APIS (Chile) may also be able to provide support for this effort to expand distributors associations in the Coalition. AMID is also coordinating with CANIFARMA on the development of a new sub-section to the national pharmaceutical code of ethics to include a sub-section on medical devices that is ideally aligned with the AMID code of ethics to ensure consistency. Perhaps the CANIFARMA sub-section on the medical device sector might include reference to the AMID Code of Ethics.
- **COMSALUD / Peru:** While unable to attend the meeting in Philadelphia, COMSALUD has confirmed their participation in the Buenos Aires and Santiago sessions in 2019.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Blasi

On behalf of the Inter-American Coalition