

## **MeN [Mesoamerican Nephropathy] Declaration**

Signed November 30, 2012

San José, Costa Rica

*[Original at <http://www.saltra.una.ac.cr/index.php/statement>]*

Recognizing that chronic kidney disease is devastating to workers and families in many parts of Central America, and

Supporting COMISCA's 2011 declaration "Unidos para Detener la Epidemia de las Enfermedades Crónicas No Transmisibles (ECNT) en Centroamérica y la República Dominicana", which includes chronic kidney disease as a priority among the non-transmittable chronic diseases subject to surveillance

We, the participants in the Mesoamerican Nephropathy (MeN) workshop organized by SALTRA, November 28-30, 2012, declare that there is sufficient proof of a chronic kidney disease of undetermined origin (MeNu) affecting Mesoamerica.

This is a silent disease that is overwhelming public health systems, leading to premature deaths. Therefore, prevention and health promotion are essential. The participants of this meeting have provided substantial evidence describing the problem and are actively seeking the etiology of the disease. Global and local interdisciplinary action and research are essential to address this urgent and tragic public health problem.

As such, we offer our support to governments to aid them in recognizing the disease in Central America and to collaborate with local researchers and multi-sector actors to:

- 1) address this issue by pooling resources and using existing scientific evidence.
- 2) prevent premature deaths in the most affected populations by intervening where possible.

**The declaration was signed by the following participants:**

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