COVID-19 Advances in Treatment and Responses by the Scientific and Medical Communities

On April 17th, the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, in partnership with Alianza UCMX and the UC San Francisco Institute for Global Health Sciences, hosted the fifth webinar on the development of treatment options and initiatives from the scientific and medical communities.

Our sixth webinar will take place on Thursday, April 23rd at 12:00 pm PDT, 2:00 pm in CDMX, where we will discuss the global impacts of COVID-19 in Mexico.

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Current Scenario

- The doubling rate of COVID-19 cases is over 7 days in most countries, including Mexico and the U.S.
- Mexico has shown improvement in the last week as growth rates in the number of daily cases have started to stabilize.

Advances in Treatment

- It is expected that 85% of cases only present common symptoms and that 15% will be severe cases that require specialized healthcare services.
- This is a challenge for healthcare systems in Latin America since their infrastructure is currently insufficient to provide care to all severe cases.
- Scientific evidence on effective treatments, preventive community action, and finding a vaccine are urgent needs.
- No medical treatment has been approved but many medications and strategies are being tested, including those that have proven to be effective against similar viruses.
- Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are not included in the IDSA's guidelines for COVID-19 treatment and are associated with significant secondary effects. Liponavir/Ritonavir has not proven to be an effective treatment.
- The use of convalescent plasma is also being tested and seems a promising option, but it would be difficult to use at a massive scale.

The Response by the Scientific and Medical Communities

- CONACYT started a dedicated repository that provides reliable information to the academic and scientific communities and offers financial support for scientific projects that provide innovative strategies against the pandemic's effects.
- UNAM's actions include establishing a COVID-19 commission to provide information and assist in decision making, launching the program "Ponte la Verde" along with partner organizations to support the initiatives of private and civil society actors, and the recollection of student opinions on the social effects of COVID-19.
- ProCienciaMX launched a platform to promote collaboration within the academic and scientific community between those developing their projects and those interested in working on a project.
- CINVESTAV is involved in multiple initiatives, including a research project that seeks to implement mass testing for COVID-19 and facilitate the return to normal economic activity through strategic sampling and monitoring in the short and medium terms.
- This is an opportunity to enhance the role of the scientific community in problem solving and the diffusion of knowledge.
- This is a non-exhaustive list that highlights only some of the most relevant initiatives in Mexico.

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