Acknowledgements

There were many people involved directly and indirectly in this project and we are deeply thankful for their participation, contribution and commitment. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Multicentric Study on Alcohol, Gender, Culture and Harms was made possible by a grant from the PAHO program on Information and Knowledge Management (IKM). In addition, regular funds from the PAHO unit on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, extra budgetary contributions from World Health Organization (WHO)/HQ Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence, from funding received by the Generalitat Valencia, Spain, and a voluntary contribution from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Canada, a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre complemented the needs for undertaking and completing the project.

Dr Sharon Wilsnack supported the participation of the principal investigators from Latin America to attend and present their findings at the Kettil Bruun Society annual meetings where the IRGGA (International Research Group on Gender and Alcohol) met in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Her support was made possible by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) in the USA.

We would like to thank all investigators and their teams from 10 different countries (Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, USA) who participated in the planning, implementation, analysis and dissemination of the data, as well as the corresponding country offices of PAHO for their assistance with coordinating activities with the central office.

We are especially grateful to Benjamin Taylor, who was the leading author of the present report. Laura Krech, Janis Dawson Schwartzman, Martha Koev and Amalia Paredes also provided technical and or administrative support to the implementation of the project at various stages.

This project was coordinated by Dr Maristela G. Monteiro, Regional Advisor on Alcohol and Substance Abuse at PAHO, in collaboration with Prof Dr Jurgen Rehm, from the CAMH.