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Dr. Sánchez Varela has held different positions at the Ministry of Health from 1984 to 2006. She was also academic coordinator of the MERCOSUR Health Systems Observatory from 2011 to 2015. She is a former Board member of COHRED (Council on Health Research for Development) and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research. She has authored and co-authored over 50 published articles and book chapters on public health and bioethics.