



Clinical trials for the [German CureVac vaccine](#) carried out jointly by private institutions such as **TecSalud** and the Mexican government have made it clear that **synergy between public and private bodies** is necessary.

**Guillermo Torre**, Rector of TecSalud and Vice President of Research at [Tec de Monterrey](#), explained this at the virtual **TecSalud Research Rounds** forum, which discussed progress made by the **Herald protocol** for the CureVac vaccine.

*“It’s a good example of how to work in the future. **The success of the vaccines** is the result of **successful public-private collaboration**,”* said Torre.

Torre explained that the way the current pandemic has been dealt with has brought to public attention the **importance of the health sector** in **Latin American countries**.

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## The CureVac vaccine protocol: international quality

**Researchers from Peru, Panama, and Mexico** shared their challenges and lessons learned, which have been key to demonstrating their ability.

*“We needed **to do a large clinical trial quickly**. This clearly demonstrated the ability of our countries to produce **results of international quality**.”*

*“Today, it’s COVID-19 and it will be something else tomorrow. The ability to create high-quality interdisciplinary groups is very important,” Torre stressed.*

What’s more, he pointed out that this effort should not be a one-off, and that the big take-away from the experience was that a **coalition must be formed to seek different solutions.**

*“When we see Latin America from the North American or European perspective, we don’t rank it equally. This process will allow us to demonstrate our technical and problem-solving capacity, which is another of our great contributions,” explained the Rector of TecSalud.*

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As **Luis Ríos Nogales**, Executive Vice President at **Rational Vaccines, Inc.**, explained: *“During a pandemic, we stop competing, that isolation we often have to protect our company’s intellectual property.*

*“One of the positive things to come out of this is that companies have come together for the common goal of finding vaccines or treatments for **SARS-CoV-2**,” he said.*

Dr. **Michel Martínez**, head of the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit at TecSalud, explained that placing Research Centers in a hospital setting generates greater public trust and security.

*“We know it’s possible to carry out **high-quality, high-volume clinical research in Latin America.** What’s more, academic environments are more rigorous,” said Martínez, who is also the leader of **TecSalud’s COVID-19 Program.***

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## Experts discuss the pandemic's progress in Mexico

**Alejandro Macías**, Mexico's former Influenza Tzar and professor at the University of Guanajuato, believes that there will have to be better understanding of epidemiology.

*"In Mexico, the number of deaths and cases are going down; not because we've done things well, but because of herd immunity.*

*"If we look at how many people have already been infected, we can see that probably **more than 60% of the population already has immunity against the disease**, either because they got sick or they've been vaccinated," he added.*

In addition, he said that *"In future we will surely have a universal vaccine against the coronavirus that **will probably be based on messenger RNA**, which is one of the greatest scientific advances in the history of mankind."*

*"I have no doubt that in the future, the speed at which these new vaccines were developed will be seen as one of the **great milestones in the history of medicine**," he reiterated.*

## TecSalud's participation in the phase 2 and 3 clinical trials

Herald is the name of the global CureVac protocol that Mexico is participating in, which started last December with **36,000 adult participants** in Europe and Latin America.

TecSalud has so far recruited 5% of the total volunteers worldwide.

*"TecSalud is in first place in the world for recruitment, with **1,977 volunteers**, and our CureVac quality indicators are green,"* explained Michel Martínez.

Mexico as a whole has recruited **6,293 volunteers**, equivalent to **15.9% of the total number**.

*"It's a project that's helping Mexico to have an advanced regulatory pathway and to understand the benefits and potential risks for Mexicans,"* said Torre.

**Servando Cardona, National Director of Clinical Research at TecSalud**, who served as moderator at the event for researchers, stressed the importance of **clinical research** as the best way to find cures for many diseases.

The [CureVac vaccine](#) is based on [messenger RNA](#), a technique developed 20 years ago.

*"It provides a template to the immune system, which reads it and produces the antibodies required to prevent the (SARS-CoV-2) virus interacting with the body,"* explained Dr. Martínez.

**Ríos Nogales** added that the protocol is a Latin American effort that is unprecedented in the history of medicine.

*“A project like this has never been implemented in this amount of time. Congratulations to everyone! We’ve done our bit for a better world,”* he said.

Torre **called on young people** to enjoy their time at university while also setting themselves **big goals**.

*“Those who don’t think big will never even get to the end of the street. You have to have big goals: that’s what allows us to achieve more than we think we can,”* he concluded.

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