

WE ARE UP TO DATE!

EDITORIAL

When we accepted the editorship of *Hansenologia Intemationalis* in 1989 we were conscious of the tremendous task it was.

To some extent, *Hansenologia Intemationalis* is the continuation of the former "Revista Brasileira de Leprologia" that contributed enormously for the study of Hansen's Disease (H.D) among us. Starting in 1979 as an international journal and including all specialties and professional categories caring for H.D patients, *Hansenologia Intemationalis* was getting sick.

Lack of financial support, no articles to publish, almost forgotten, with a delay of 5 issues to be published! This was the situation of *Hansenologia Intemationalis* when we received it. Despite all effort, the journal was fated to disappear similarly to "Revista Brasileira de Leprologia".

The fight to save the journal was not easy. Many people gave support to maintain its continuity. This is the case of ALM International with financial support and many people giving editorial support such as Celio P. Motta, Marcos Virmond, Holmes C. Costa, Iraci Borges and our unforgettable reviser editor Vera Kilmar. She believed in this journal and, despite her illness, her dedication to the cause of *Hansenologia Intemationalis* was always present. Thanks to her efforts, to her orientation and devotion, we could carry on this task. This number, which makes *Hansenologia Intemationalis* up to date, is dedicated to her.

Presently, *Hansenologia Intemationalis* is the voice of Instituto Lauro de Souza Lima and, thus, of the Coordination of Research Institutes CIP) of the State Health Secretariat of São Paulo, as well as of the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries.

The College was founded to contribute

to the eradication of Hansen's Disease worldwide. To achieve this it counts with the participation of different professional living and working in many endemic countries, all of them having the same goal in mind.

In which way could the College contribute to the control programs of a disease such as H .D, in the research to solve the yet existing problems, in the search for new drugs to cure it, in the care of patients, prevention of impairment and correction of disabilities?

How people working in such distant places could constitute a group to fight the stigma, prejudice and outcast that afflict H.D. patients and their families, trying to re- integrate them and preventing them to be destituted?

The basic way to achieve this is to establish communication among this group, promoting share of information, exchange of experience and teaching material, offering courses, in-training service and the promotion of seminars and congresses.

At the time we were conducted to the presidency of the College , our main goal was to update our journal, not only to reestablish its credibility but also to incentive the communication among our fellows, opening room for new activities. This was the priority and we could not dedicate efforts to the other remaining goals of our mandate before achieving it.

Now, that we got to desired point, let us proceed with the remaining work. We have many plans. First of all is to organize the file of members, the reestablishment of financial contribution and a continuous campaign to admit new members.

Last, but not least, we need to start planning our next Congress. After the last one in

OPROMOLLA, D.V.A. We are up to date!

Barcelona, it won't be easy to repeat such an event, well organized, with high scientific level, massive presence of participants, enjoyable social program and the undeniable hospitality of our fellow Spanish colleges.

Anyhow, we will try to do our best. From now on we are certain that the

College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries will be strengthened. The understanding, the good will and the enthusiasm of our members together with our journal, *Hansenologia Intemationalis*, will guarantee this achievement.

D.V.A. Opromolla