

# Special Presentation

São Paulo's Public Health Congresses represent an important stage for debates and technical-political developments in the Public Health field. The specificity of this Congress, promoted by *Associação Paulista de Saúde Pública* (APSP - São Paulo's Public Health Association) and by partner institutions, is that it is not a strictly academic event, but a space for the encounter between services and academia, articulating experiences and scientific production in Public Health.

The present supplement of *Saúde e Sociedade* provides readers with some of the main debates that occurred during *X Congresso Paulista de Saúde Pública - X CPSP* (10<sup>th</sup> São Paulo's Public Health Congress), which was held in São Pedro/SP in October 2007.

Based on the central theme "SUS (Brazil's National Health System): diversities, tensions and convergences", the works were developed around three great axes: Health, Society and SUS: the subject's imperative; Organization of healthcare actions: models and practices; Health and social development: advances and impasses. These axes guide the content of this supplement and are approached by means of the presentation of the four conferences, of the *I Seminário das Escolas Técnicas do SUS* (1<sup>st</sup> Seminar of the Technical Schools of SUS) and of the nine awarded works (out of a total of twelve), which received the Kurt Klotzel Prize, in the categories research reports and experience reports.

The themes approached at the X CPSP debate some of the issues that are central to Public Health today: how to integrate individual care with answers to collective needs in a society ruled by individuality, seen as a value and an achievement? How to face this challenge in the

organization of models and practices that promote Life and the subjects' emancipation? How to recognize and respect cultural, social, individual diversities while simultaneously promoting universal values?

Another complex set of questions that involve the organization of the Brazilian Health System will also be approached; however, without exhausting all its amplitude and diversity: how to perform actions guided by the SUS principles and guidelines? How to make it become a System that is truly universal and egalitarian, a System that provides integral healthcare?

The achievements of services' decentralization and extension by means of giving responsibilities to the municipalities place new challenges to the system: the viability of financing, its professionals' adequate and permanent education, the challenge of developing new technologies and forms of evaluation, the need for intersector strategies, among other themes that demand further technical and political debates that allow us to advance in the construction of a Health System that is defined and guided by SUS.

Such broad questions will certainly find answers only as a result of a social movement in historical scale, within the range of distinct possibilities that are part of the current scenario. We hope that the debates developed during the X CPSP are one more brick in this construction.

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## **Marco Akerman**

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