

Cadernos de Saúde Pública/Reports in Public Health. 20 years

The year 2004 is particularly relevant for all those who have participated in the history of *Cadernos de Saúde Pública (CSP)/Reports in Public Health*, since the journal is now celebrating 20 years of uninterrupted publication. Founded in 1985 under the leadership of two visionaries, Frederico Simões Barbosa and Luis Fernando Ferreira, over the course of two decades CSP has reached an outstanding position among its peers. Not least, a journal like CSP is rare in the Latin American and Brazilian scientific publishing community, marked by numerous periodicals that are either short-lived or published on an irregular basis. Political and institutional instability and budget fluctuations have been identified as the main factors jeopardizing both the quantitative and qualitative development of Latin American scientific periodicals.

CSP has not been completely immune to these factors in its own history. In order to overcome such obstacles, besides the linkages among those most directly involved in producing the journal, crucial support has always come from various sectors among potential users of scientific journals in the country, especially researchers, health professionals, and students. This diversity is currently reflected in the journal's pages. The authors and readers display extremely varied profiles, identified with the broad spectrum of the health professions, including the various fields of the social sciences and biology. It is highly significant that CSP has become one of the main bridges between the academic and scientific community and health services.

A few statistics will help illustrate the history of CSP. During its first decade, 35 articles were published annually, on average; in the last three years this figure has nearly quintupled, to 173 per year. Volume 19 (2003) included no less than 231 articles. As for the authors' affiliations, CSP has achieved a productive balance between those from the National School of Public Health itself and other institutions. During its first decade of publication, some 48% of the authors were from other institutions. In recent volumes this proportion has reached 81%. Another significant trend is that 13% of the authors publishing in CSP in recent years are from outside of Brazil, primarily from Latin America, Europe, the United States, and Canada. These results are important, particularly since CSP is an institutional journal, demonstrating ample possibilities for access to publication and highlighting peer review as the underlying criterion for article selection. As for circulation and distribution, one can safely say that CSP is now among the most widely read scientific journals in Brazil. According to statistics recently published by the Scientific Electronic Library Online – SciELO, of all the journals belonging to the database (118), CSP is the periodical with the most article downloads in recent years, reaching 9% of the total (more than half a million). Only two other journals have surpassed the 5% mark.

These statistics (and many others, which space limitations do not allow to explore here) are more than enough to justify celebrating the 20th anniversary of CSP. Sustaining a project of such magnitude is an achievement shared by many, and it would be impossible to list some names without unfairly leaving others out. Without a doubt, the National School of Public Health has been the main source of funds for the journal, but key financial support has also come from the National Research Council (CNPq) and other institutions, especially sponsoring thematic supplements. The hundreds of authors who have entrusted their research results to CSP and the thousands of readers who have turned to the journal for cutting-edge, high-quality information in the health field would certainly comprise a long list of acknowledgments. In addition, the hundreds of *ad hoc* consultants (388 in 2003 alone) whose names are listed in a special section in the last issue of CSP each year provide an invaluable service to the journal. Finally, proper recognition goes to the “in-house team”, including the associate editors, assistant editors, and all the secretarial and support staff, essential for orchestrating a project that receives hundreds of new articles every year.

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