

Guest editorial

It is a pleasure for me to introduce Volume 3, Number 4 of Revista Saúde (Guarulhos University, São Paulo, Brazil). This is a peer-reviewed online journal, first made available in 2007. It was initially structured by researchers from the Nursing and Dentistry Graduate Programs of Guarulhos University, and has become an important tool for propagation of the studies conducted in our masters and PhD courses.

The establishment of a new journal is not an easy task, especially during the initial steps of selecting high quality papers, since most of the researchers seek journals well classified in different bibliographic databases, such as Scielo, Lilacs and Medline. However, the Editorial Board of Revista Saúde, actually headed by the Editor-in Chief, Dr. José Augusto Rodrigues, has been doing a wonderful job in publishing scientifically relevant manuscripts since the first issue of this journal. The progressive increase in the number of readers is a sign of the recognition of this online journal by the scientific community. In 2007 there were approximately 100 readers, and today there are more than 500 readers.

In the past decade, the rapid growth of the Internet and globalization has changed the way scientific knowledge is propagated. One good example of this change is the *Index Medicus* - a comprehensive index of medical journal articles — whose bound copies filled the shelves of medical libraries for over a century. Nowadays, there is a major internet availability of most publications of the medical literature, especially through the electronic database PubMed, which made the printed *Index Medicus* obsolete. Revista Saúde follows this tendency with the compromise to keep up-to-date all readers by its free online access.

This is the first edition fully published in English, what may be considered the first step towards internationalization of this publication. I would like to congratulate the Editorial Board, Dr. José Augusto Rodrigues and all the people engaged in this journal, for their wonderful job. I hope that all of you have successfully completed or are about to complete a busy academic year and are looking forward to a restful and productive summer. I leave the lucky readers of this great scientific journal with the following 6 relevant papers of the present issue.

Yours sincerely,

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