

## Health surveillance: arguments, dilemmas and achievements

Until recently the sanitary surveillance theme was poorly handled in the Brazilian scientific literature, and very few publications were indexed with this keyword. The cooperation strategy of the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) with some scientific institutions and universities has helped to change this scenario. By means of this cooperation, collaborating centers were created to develop research and education skills, which resulted in the transformation of health surveillance in an emerging theme in the collective health research.

This special issue of *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* is part of the work plan of the Collaborating Centre in Health Surveillance, of the National School of Public Health Sergio Arouca, Fiocruz (Cecovisa/ENSP/Fiocruz).

Besides the Debate, this issue is composed by 29 articles, 11 of which are a result of studies from Collaborating Centres of Fiocruz and of the Federal University of Bahia, two review articles, and the 16 others, arranged in Free Themes, address issues of interest to the health surveillance.

The variety of themes and methods, and the quality of the articles reveal diversity and connections, and indicate the need to establish a research agenda in health surveillance, integrated to the researches in health.

In addition to producing knowledge about their intervention objects and their relationship to the individual and collective health, there is the challenge of better health surveillance to contribute to the strengthening of citizenship and integrity in public health policy. And reflect on the issues that pervade this area, known to be complex, brings forth the need for its largest joint in the health field and other fields of government action.

This Special Issue aims to present some *achievements* of the National Sanitary Surveillance System, established by the Law 9782 of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999, with regard to their increasing role in protecting health in the classification of work processes and its practices, and in the production of knowledge. Achievements accompanied by old and new *challenges* facing local and global issues. Challenges that are revealed in the presentation of *arguments* about the importance and specificity of health surveillance in promoting and protecting health.

The Debate section brought up the construction of the National System of Health Surveillance in the context of the definitions introduced by the recent and controversy Decree 3252 of December, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009, which clarifies the search for greater adaptation to the post Management Pact.

The reference article presents arguments based on the structure of the Brazilian federation and the analysis of the relations between the actors of health policies and surveillance. The federation and political context, of the disputes around the various projects and definitions of the health and surveillance fields, are highlighted by the debaters.

The set of authors, writers and debaters includes professionals, managers and researchers committed to the principles of health reform and the construction of SUS. Independently and through its expertise: health surveillance, health monitoring, federal relations or even the exercise of participation in federal health forums and its advisory bodies, have helped to shed light on issues that still require much reflection. Opened a debate that remains, hence the arrival and departure point, designating the replica.

We thank all those who, in the most various ways, contributed to the achievement of this special issue. This edition was based on the invaluable collaboration of the editorial board, in particular, Maria Cecilia Minayo, whom we thank the acceptance of the demand, the tireless monitoring and guidance in all phases of this enterprise.

Marismary Horsth De Seta, Vera Lúcia Edais Pepe, Ediná Alves Costa

*Guest editors*