

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

I'm still having trouble deciding what tone to use to tell you about the recent departure of two people who have been true pillars of this journal. Deep down in our hearts—mine and my editorial colleagues – we are in mourning. Yet Ruth Martins and Ângela Pôrto have left us so optimistic about their personal projects for the future that we have no choice but to wish them all the happiness in the world. Ângela, editor of our Images department, is retiring, her spirit joyful with flowers and plants, which are to be her chief concern in the coming years – and may these years be as numerous and fruitful as those she devoted to our journal. (She's the first age-mate in my circle to take this step, which has awakened my own delightful fantasies about what is yet to come during this third incarnation of our earthly existences). Ruth, I do believe, was feeling the approach of this transition herself and decided to shake things up a bit from her steady routine here by taking on a new challenge, one that combines her background in journalism with the remarkable know-how she has acquired in the online world of digital media and information exchange. She is now pouring her energy and enthusiasm into building the Casa de Oswaldo Cruz's portal. If I close my eyes, I can still see those initial working meetings with Ruth, in 1990, when *Estudos de História e Saúde* was first released, a rudimentary periodical in mimeographed form, the seed of the journal you hold in your hands today. Its finest features were diligently molded through the efforts, intelligence, and sunny disposition of this colleague who has now taken leave of us.

But let us leave our sorrow aside and celebrate the days of spring that *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* is now enjoying. A warm welcome to the journal's new executive editor, Roberta Cardoso Cerqueira, a much-beloved member of our team, and the two new editors now responsible for the Images department: Ana Maria Mauad, associate professor of history at the Universidade Federal Fluminense and CNPq researcher, and Maria Teresa Villela Bandeira de Mello, technical advisor at the Rio de Janeiro State Public Archives (Aperj).

I close this letter by inviting our readers to check out our virtual address, [www.scielo.br/hcsm](http://www.scielo.br/hcsm), where we will soon post a debate on flu epidemics – the one from 1918-1919 and

today's – with the participation of Ana Maria Carrilo, of Mexico; Adriana Alvarez and Adrián Carbonetti, of Argentina; and Cláudio Bertolli, Nara Azevedo, Christiane Maria Cruz de Souza, and Liane Maria Bertucci, of Brazil. The debate will be published in our next issue (v. 16, no. 4, Oct.-Dec. 2009) but you can find it 'on the air' even sooner, at the Scielo site – our first experience with preprints.

*Jaime Benchimol*

Editor