

Foreword

The present special issue of the *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz* is dedicated to Chagas disease and *Trypanosoma cruzi* studies as part of the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the discovery of American trypanosomiasis by Carlos Chagas, in 1909, at which time he was a researcher at Instituto Oswaldo Cruz. Therefore, this outstanding issue was organised to be released in the month of Carlos Chagas's birthday (July 9th), during the "International Symposium on the Centennial of the Discovery of Chagas Disease" (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

This issue of *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz* consists of 40 articles written by 158 scientists. The papers represent a variety of research topics ranging from paleoparasitology, eco-epidemiology, ultrastructural and cell biology aspects of parasite/host interactions, proteomics and genomics, immunology, vaccinology and biochemistry, all the way to studies on clinical management, vector ecology and control programs as well as public health policies. Thus, this issue brings original contributions to science, and an outline of the progress of knowledge for both the parasite and the disease over the past 100 years.

We hope that the papers published in the present issue give an overview of the diversity and quality of presentations and discussions that will take place during the Symposium, reflecting the state-of-the-art of investigations involving a great variety of topics and contributing significantly to the advancement of knowledge in Chagas disease research.

Finally, we would like to express our joy and satisfaction in publishing this special issue of *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz* as part of the celebration of the remarkable discovery by Carlos Chagas.

Ricardo Lourenço de Oliveira

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