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PROCEEDINGS:

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SCHISTOSOMIASIS
I REUNIÃO NACIONAL DE ESQUISTOSSOMOSE**

**RIO DE JANEIRO – BRAZIL
October 25 to 30, 1987**

Guest Editors for this Special Issue:

M. Tandler
H. L. Lenzi
D. C. Gomes

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FOREWORD

The *International Symposium on Schistosomiasis* was one of the four international events organized during 1987 by scientists from the Oswaldo Cruz Institute, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), and published as special issues of the *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz*.

The symposia were organized in relevant areas to diseases control and to the scientific and technological development in the biological and biomedical sciences. Schistosomiasis proved to be a well chosen subject. On one hand, it afflicts around 200 million people in the world (12 million in Brazil), and being a chronic disease with a low mortality rate, it is generally not considered as seriously as it should be by health authorities. On the other hand, there are several leading laboratories and scientific groups in Brazil working in the subject, able to interact and collaborate with foreign groups, that could benefit from such meeting.

The idea started some two years ago, when FIOCRUZ received a small grant from the World Health Organization to stimulate our activities in schistosomiasis research. An internal FIOCRUZ meeting was organized near Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil, by Prof. Naftale Katz and his coworkers from our "René Rachou" Regional Research Center. At that moment it became evident that an international event would be the most appropriate next step, so that international contacts and cooperation would be stimulated. The idea was finally approved during the Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Tropical Medicine in Belo Horizonte.

Drs Miriam Tandler, Henrique Lenzi, Pedro Jurberg and Delir Corrêa Gomes received the hard task of organizing the event. FIOCRUZ is happy to have such a dedicated team, able to materialize our dreams in spite of the difficult economic situation. Our thanks to the Ministry of Health, Brazil, and to the various funding agencies that helped us in the arduous task of sponsoring the event.

Many thanks to our colleagues from other institutions, in particular those who came from abroad, for their contribution and participation. To the authors and to the Guest and Regular Editors of the *Memórias*, our gratitude for the excellency of their work.

We would very much appreciate if collaborative projects and programs would develop as a result of the symposium, and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation would be glad to further support the strengthening of research and development activities related to schistosomiasis.

Rio de Janeiro, October, 1988

Carlos M. Morel
*Vice-President for Research
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