

Editorial

The Brazilian Society of Sexually Transmitted Diseases: we are committed to your participation

When I returned from the 1st STD World Congress, which took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in november 1981, I decided that I could work a lot on STDs.

In the beginning of 1982, with full backing from colleagues in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro and from the Medical Association of Niterói (AMF), the Fluminense Union Against Sexually Transmitted Diseases was founded. It was tied to the Brazilian Union Against Venereal Diseases. At the time, the work done by these colleagues was magnificent.

In 1998, we felt the need to widen the scope of the activities developed in Rio de Janeiro, transforming our medical society into a national entity, independent from the Brazilian Union Against Venereal Diseases. We created the Brazilian Society of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (SBDST).

In 1989, once more we dared, starting the STD-Brazilian Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, a scientific periodical, today indexed. It is already included in most Brazilian medical libraries' collections. Many foreign entities and libraries also receive our journal, including the American Library of Congress, one of the biggest and best in the world.

To publish a paper in the STD journal today is to be sure that over 20.000 health professionals will have access to it.

After many regional events, we created the **STD in Rio** congress. The first version of it was held in 1996 and the second in 1998, both attracting over 10.000 participants and being highly praised in relation to scientific content. Modesty aside, participants, conferencists and listeners shined. From the opening onward we made a show.

Moving forward on the road to making the SBDST a truly national entity, we were able to negotiate for its congress to be held outside of Rio de Janeiro. In 2000, presided by our colleague Ivo Castelo Branco Coêlho, the **STD 3 in Fortaleza** was a complete success. Scientific success, public success and success in the relationship between public sector organs, NGOs and organized civilian society.

We didn't stop there, though. This year, in september, the 4th SBDST Congress, **STD 4 – Manaus 2002**, under the guidance of the colleagues Adele Schwartz Benzaken and José Carlos Gomes Sardinha, displays impeccable agreement between the innumerable representatives of public sector organs, private initiative, NGOs, national and international health professionals' societies (doctors', nurses', dentists'...).

I dare to say that, in a positive way, the achievements of the colleagues in charge of this whole process have made me jealous.

We are succeeding in attaining many goals. Today we are, surely, a group of friends, of professionals, which, respecting our individualities, are joining efforts to overcome, with organization, the problems presented by the STDs.

This group is becoming more solid. The dialog, honesty, competence and perseverance of each have been fundamental for these advances. We evolved to the forming of regional and stateside units, which are now five: Amazonas, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Pernambuco e Rio de Janeiro.

To be able to come to where we stand, we have counted on the help of many institutions; trying to name them all here would not be possible. Anyway, during these 14 years of publication of the DST-JBDST, all have been contemplated. We say thank you to each one.

Much more, however, needs to be done. Many more persons and entities need be engaged in this fight, offering criticism, proposals and solutions.

During the event in Manaus, a new board of directors will be elected. The parties must be inscribed until august 4th, 2002. Only members who are paid up and who have been inscribed 30 days before the election will be able to participate in the process. Each regional unit will have to provide, for members who are not present in Manaus, conditions to exercise their rights.

The election of the city to host the next congress, in 2004, will also be held during the 4th Congress of the SBDST. Those interested should present a formal proposal on the event's first day. This proposal must be protocolized at the SBDST stand and addressed to its president. Priority will be given to those presented by the board of directors of a regional unit; these will be analysed by the SBDST board of directors, which, in an ordinary meeting, will elect those in charge and the place of the next congress.

Thus, we make a call to join the group to those who believe that a great work depends on small contributions. Your participation, more than welcome, is necessary. To us, it's decisive. Because you make a difference.

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