A vision into the world

The world is progressing and distances are growing shorter with information and communication technologies. Our ADOLESCENCE & HEALTH JOURNAL is right in step with this digital revolution, through the production and publication of this unparalleled International Supplement. International experts and authors writing on adolescence are drawing steadily closer in reflections and discussions of this time of transition. Although adolescence may continue unchanged in biological terms, each generation faces fresh social challenges and cultural influences that modify and speed up mental adaptation mechanisms and life styles for the entire family and society as a whole. Regardless of their geographical location, country or urban hub, all adolescents must surmount new obstacles and barriers as they seek their own autonomy and independence. Some of the topics presented in this International Supplement address these issues.

We are undoubtedly constructing yet another milestone for the Adolescent Health Studies Center (NESA), which started work forty years ago, focused on healthcare for adolescents admitted to the Pedro Ernesto University Hospital for medical problems. These efforts subsequently progressed with the establishment of multidisciplinary teams, significantly broadening their scope to include all three tiers of healthcare (primary, secondary and tertiary), as well as training at the undergraduate, post-graduate and extension levels, in parallel to research and professional capacity-building projects. In 2013, the ADOLESCENCE & HEALTH JOURNAL celebrates its tenth anniversary and commemorates its development, rooted in a creative drive to disseminate ideals for professional healthcare activities focused on adolescents, serving as a link among the many university facilities Brazil. All this dedication and competence are also acknowledged as grounds for even more pleasure and pride in further accomplishments, with dissemination in Latin America and support from the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the International Association for Adolescent Health (IAAH) in setting up this international cooperation network and now, also part of the Virtual health Library (BVS/ADOLEC) network.

And so we are setting out into the world! This journal presents unpublished papers by professionals from places as far away as Australia, Singapore, Serbia, Portugal, England, Canada and the USA, exploring universal topics that are relevant to adolescence: ethical issues and rights, families and resilience, sexuality, immigration and refugees, violence and traumas caused by imprisonment, drug use and social support, as well as how to continue working towards health and prevention for a population of adolescents who are increasingly more vulnerable to the social upheavals caused by globalization. We offer our thanks to the professionals who contributed to this issue, as well as to all our colleagues who will honor us through their reading, reflection and professional enhancement.

Evelyn Eisenstein
Scientific Editor

Isabel Bouzas
Editor