Health Evaluation: research and training for improved health care systems

The Instituto de Medicina Integral Prof. Fernando Figueira (IMIP) has, over the years, been actively encouraging the creation of partnerships between teaching and research institutions and health services, as well as dialogue and exchanges of experiences amongst specialists and consultants with expertise in health evaluation, with a special emphasis on the implementation of training processes that contribute to technical skills for process of formulation and improvement of the public health policies. To this end, in May of this year, we organized and promoted, in collaboration with the Associação Brasileira de Pós-graduação em Saúde Coletiva (ABRASCO), a “National Seminar on the Institutionalization of Health Evaluation” and launched a book entitled “Health Evaluation: conceptual and operational foundations” (Medbook, 2010). These, together with this “Special Supplement on Evaluation”, commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the IMIP.

This Supplement also marks ten years of the formal existence of the Study Group on Management and Evaluation of Health (GEAS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology’s National Research Center (CNPq/MCT) and the first year of the Post-Graduate Program in Health Evaluation, a Professional Master’s Course, recently approved by the Ministry of Education’s Center for the Promotion of Excellence in Higher Education (CAPES/MEC), coordinated by the IMIP’s Directors of Research and Teaching respectively.

This publication is a continuation of the series of special supplements published in 1995 and 2005, and is once again edited by Prof. Zulmira Hartz, Prof. Isabella Samico and Prof. Eronildo Felisberto, who have put together contributions from national and international authors, whose work aims to strengthen evaluative research and efforts to improve evaluation as a health management tool.

Over the past sixteen months, we have received and analyzed 26 manuscripts and, finally, approved 19 of these, through a process of peer review, for inclusion in the special supplement. They include one Review Article, 14 Original Articles, 2 Technical Institutional Reports, one Point of View, and one Special Article on “The Institutionalization of Evaluation in Public Administration,” which reports on the talk given by Prof. Jean-Louis Denis, of the University of Montreal’s Faculty of Medicine’s Health Administration Department, which was delivered as the Inaugural Lecture for the IMIP’s Professional Master’s in Health Evaluation.

In this way, the IMIP, which publishes the Brazilian Journal of Mother and Child Health, continues to demonstrate its commitment to sharing and learning, in dialogue with various institutions and in accordance with the lines of research: evaluation of interventions and institutionalization of evaluation practice of its Post-Graduate Programs in Mother and Child Health and Health Evaluation.

The multidisciplinary approach adopted by this publication reflects the theoretical and methodological principles and explores findings arising from collective work, which we hope have contributed to research, training and management in the area of health care systems.

Eronildo Felisberto

1 Coordinator of the Study Group on Management and Evaluation of Health of Instituto de Medicina Integral Prof. Fernando Figueira (IMIP).