

### Another major step towards international acknowledgment for *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva*

We must record the good times. In July 2007, at the great event that gathered together the IV Brazilian Congress on the Social Sciences and Health, the XIV Congress of the International Health Policies Association and the X Latin American Congress on Social Medicine in Salvador, Brazil, we celebrated the indexation of the *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* review in the Medline database. For the past six years, we have been working steadily towards this inclusion, bridging gaps and correcting problems mentioned by the reviewers of this database.

According to the report that we received, the Committee that approved the indexation worked with background information on the scope of the journal and its coverage, with two general criteria: **quality** (of the papers, the executive staff, the editorial board and production process of this periodical, as well as its independence and the autonomy of its contents); and **importance** (of the researchers, professors, lecturers, students and administrators who publish their works in this journal. The issue of **importance** included an analysis of the topics dealt with, from the standpoint of their relevance for Brazil's healthcare challenges). We came out well in this photo!

A success such as this is collective, because it depends on many authors, many hands and many minds. This is why we offer our most sincere thanks initially to our authors and readers, as well as to the executive staff in charge of the production process of the journal. Each day, they are responsible for the quality and the repercussions of the work. We also thank the team of associate editors who lay down the guidelines and establish the priorities for the journal, as well as the Editorial Board members and the ad-hoc members who ensure the high scientific quality of the papers. Our gratitude also goes to partners with other reviews in this field who helped us in our quest for international acknowledgment. Among the latter, a very special 'thank you' is due to the former scientific editor of the *Environmental Health Perspective* (EHP) review, Dr. Thomas Gohel, who has always been ready to offer us a helping hand along the way.

In brief, the dream of establishing a journal for ABRASCO has come true, first put into practice in 1996 and now a reality that will not fade. Today ranked among the three most-read and most-referenced Brazilian periodicals in this field, *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* is forging steadily ahead, closely attuned to scientific and political realities and right in step with field practices. Having published four editions a year through to 2006, we stepped up to six regular editions in 2007 – and the demand is still rising. By the end of this year, we expect to have received some eight hundred original papers. This pressure from the authors is clearly due to a set of factors, spurred by an upsurge in the number and quality of graduate courses in Brazil and the requirements imposed by development and rating agencies. However, the good name of the journal cannot be denied, when analyzing this upswing in demand. The journal website ([www.cienciaesaudecoletiva.com.br](http://www.cienciaesaudecoletiva.com.br)) interacts permanently with the authors, keeping them informed and advised; by publishing their papers as soon as they are approved, it corroborates their success.

Although ABRASCO has surely triumphed yet again in this venture, we are nevertheless well aware that the rocky road to quality and relevance for a scientific periodical is a trodden with much hard work – and we have barely started on our way! We need to move ahead with the crucial cooperation of each and every one of the players in this process.

Maria Cecília de Souza Minayo  
*Scientific editor*