



PRESENTATION

In 2008, the Escola de Saúde Pública (Public Health School) celebrates its 46 years of existence, a period during which the School has always defended the education and qualification of those who work in the public health system.

In the 1960s the great concern was the education of nurses, so that they could serve with dignity the population that was most in need of quality public health. In the 1970s, living under the hard years of the military dictatorship, the space of the ESP was a *locus of refuge* for several sanitary professionals that were *under suspicion* in the eyes of the Regime; nevertheless those were years during which the ESP responded to the new challenges of public health. With the onset of the 1980s, employees of the ESP turned their attention toward the effectuation of the right to have rights to health; in those days, we took part in several movements for the constitutionalization of the right to health, and we were winners, along with many other workers in the health field. In 1988, the right to health becomes a right of the citizen and a duty of the State. With the arrival of the 1990s, the struggle would have to go on, stronger and stronger, as we knew that is was not enough to constitutionalize the right to health, it was

necessary to make it real. It was in this decade that we, the health professionals of the most different levels and occupations, united for municipalization, decentralization, universalization and equity of health. Now in the new millennium, we realized that Alma Ata had not yet been effectuated, and once again ESP struggles for democracy and for its effectivation, by means of the right to health. During all these decades, we could rely on publications, seminars, meetings, courses and lecture. Yet, an important instrument emerges at the ESP – The BOLETIM DA SAÚDE (HEALTH JOURNAL), which was launched in 1969 and since its foundation innovates and contributes, with new and old reflections in the field of health. In this Journal, where we present varied articles, we are discussing organizational changes, the reception in health, the role of the media, the impact of health policies in the most varied areas; and we also present articles on senior citizens. We close this issue with an article that refers to our history, the 25 years of sanitarianism in Rio Grande do Sul.

We believe that this volume will contribute to the education of increasingly solidary health workers.

THE DIRECTORS