

EDITORIAL**Oral health research in Paraíba (Brazil) in the context of collective health**

The dental research has developed greatly in recent years, with the inclusion of methodological resources capable of responding to various questions and the different objects. Along with the advancement in the explanation of events, scholars have been concerned about the power of explanation that the studies offer health professionals in practical terms, that is, how the results observed in different studies can be applied to clinical practice, the planning of preventive programs or even to study the efficaciousness of social programs in place.

This concern with the meaning of the results found in studies that take as a reference to the knowledge of the most different themes must be inherent to all involved with the practice of health promotion. Although the research techniques have advanced, practical and collective meaning is what really matters and makes sense, considering that the health research comes from the interest in knowing phenomena, but mainly, in contributing to society so favorable for the improvement of their quality of life.

In view of these aspects, for this special issue of the Journal Family, Cycles of Life and Health in Context Social were selected articles with excellent scientific and potentials of explanation of events, which also pertain to the contribution of studies in dentistry with the collective health, with a meeting of different research areas and topics of interest to the entire community committed to health in general giving prominence to the Paraíba State (Brazil), but also showing both aspects of the Brazilian Northeast, as of Brazil as a whole.

Good reading to all!

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