

Editorial

This issue is about « Problems of Health Care Systems in Latin Language Countries », on the scope of the 'Latin Association for the Analysis of Health Care Systems' (ALASS). Researchers of several national and international organizations dedicated to study the topic were invited to contribute to this publication.

The papers result from authors' research focus, sensitivity and scientific approach, who work in Brazil, Italy, Canada, Portugal, France, Switzerland, Spain and Chile.

We know that the problems that health systems face are numerous, have their specificity within their context, but we recognize, by the studies presented here, that they have similarities among them.

We bring to the reader's papers that address the right to health care, relating juridical norms and their implementation on issues like universal coverage, the growth of immigration and the access to legal abortion (Brazil, Italy); the health services network in the context of demographic change (Switzerland, Brazil); the impacts of economic crisis on the sustainability of health systems and reforms of social security (Spain, Chile); professional practices of nurses in hospitals and pharmacists in the primary health system in Brazil, Canada and Portugal (Brazil, Canada); the experience of health workers in situations involving environmental disasters and psychic suffering in hospital labour (Brazil); factors that contribute to the efficiency of health establishments (France); the working time arrangement in relation to workers' health (Portugal); the competence from an anthropologic perspective of work and learning (France).

We wish a good reading!

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