

Editorial

Risk is an important characteristic of contemporary industrialized societies. It is not without reason that the sociologist Ulrich Beck calls them Risk Society. Many essayists and scientists, abroad and in Brazil, have been working social theories for scientific approach of the theme of risk. At the end of 2009, the School of Public Health, the Program on Environmental Sciences and the Instituto de Estudos Avançados of University of São Paulo organized the International Seminar Risk, Health and the Environment, that had as main lecturer the psychologist Paul Slovic, from University of Oregon. The article that opens this issue of *Saúde e Sociedade* is derived from his participation at this Seminar. Also from this seminar is Norma Valêncio's article on disasters and planning of Civil Defense in the Brazilian context, theme of great relevance in the rainy season that is starting in Brazil. Also Vilela, Malagoli and Morrone discuss vector control, under the approach of worker's social risk management.

Following, this issue brings a series of important articles that deal with the theme of ageing, under different approaches, but, in general, highlighting

the complexity and the heterogeneity of the process and of the ways of facing it. The increased longevity of Brazilians and the proportional and absolute growth on the number of aged people in the country make this theme particularly important for Public Health.

Other articles in this issue deal with the Sistema Único de Saúde - SUS in its various items: the Family Health Program and Basic Attention, social control, humanization, health promotion, showing the richness of scientific production on SUS. This source of experiences and research is now being discovered by investigators and health managers from other parts of the world, where recent economic crisis denoted the fragility of Health Systems for underprivileged social strata.

Finally, there are two articles on food and its relation to health, of people with diabetes in one, and of scholars in another, where the relation with family Agriculture is established.

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In behalf of the Editorial Board