

The Ouro Preto Declaration: Creation of the Latin American Social Medicine Association (1984)

The signatories below, attendees of the Second Latin American Seminar on Social Medicine, have decided to found the Latin American Social Medicine Association.

Background

Our decision to found the Latin American Social Medicine Association is based the following developments:

- Advances over the past decade of the social study of health.
- The implementation and consolidation of new models of community medicine, occupational health, and health education.
- The creation and growth of several graduate programs in the fields of collective health and social medicine.
- The increasing presence of collective health and social medicine in Latin American research, teaching, health administration, and health planning.
- The growing number of colleagues from all countries of the continent whose work – carried out in different areas and diverse working groups – has allowed social medicine and collective health to collaborate closely with the International Group for the Study of the Political Economy of Health.

Objectives

Our goal is to promote and consolidate social medicine throughout the continent. We intend to foster the inclusion of social medicine in health policy through research, education, health care services, community work, and actions of solidarity. We entrust the formulation of clear and specific short-term, medium-term, and long-term

objectives to a Coordinating Committee [CC] which we are also establishing at this time.

Regulations

A set of rules are required to accomplish the objectives of our Association by establishing minimal and clear operating and organizational norms. We delegate to the CC the task of finalizing the rules and regulations of the Association so that it can be registered legally. This should be done in a manner that is genuinely democratic, involves a minimum of formality, optimizes organizational efficiency, and takes into account our past experience. Considering the proposals presented in the organizational plan made by the current Group Coordinator, we recommend that the CC integrate these ideas into the objectives and rules when preparing the documents defining the substance and basic principles of our Association.

Headquarters of the Association

Notwithstanding the possibility of changes made at subsequent meetings, we choose Brazil at this time to be the official headquarters for the Association. We authorize the Brazilian Association of Graduate Studies in Collective Health (ABRASCO) to designate the Association's Executive Secretary as soon as possible and to complete the necessary steps to establish the Association legally. We delegate to the General Coordinator (named in this document) the task of making all necessary contacts with relevant individuals and institutions throughout Latin America working in the field of social medicine. We also delegate to the Coordinator the task of establishing good working relations with those institutions and individuals relevant to the accomplishment of the objectives and tasks of our

Association. Particularly relevant is our relationship with the International Group for the Study of the Political Economy of Health, of which we will remain the Latin American branch.

Regular Meetings

We undertake to organize the Latin American Social Medicine Seminar every other year. These meetings will also serve as the official meetings of the Association. We intend for the next Seminar to be an international meeting.

Nominations and Final Considerations

Finally, we wish to make special mention of Professor Juan César García, who passed away earlier this year. We would like to both recognize and underscore his pioneering work in social medicine within the region, his solid theoretical contributions, and his leadership of our Association. As a tribute to him we have established a permanent

Seminar in his name. The “Juan César García” seminar will organize national and regional events and foster research. The “Juan César García” conference will be the central conference at each future Latin American Seminar. The widespread publication of these conferences will both preserve and update his presence.

We designate the following *compañeros* as members of the first Coordinating Committee:

Saúl Franco Agudelo, General Coordinator
Asa Cristina Laurell & Fabio Salamanca, for México, Central America, and the Caribbean
Hesio Croderio, for Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and Paraguay
Jaime Breilh, for Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela
Susana Belmartino, for Argentina

Ouro Preto, Brazil, November 22, 1984

Asa Cristina Laurell, México	Paulo Marchori Buss, Brazil
Saúl Franco, Colombia	David Capistrano Filho, Brazil
Hesio Cordeiro, Brazil	Horacio Barri, Argentina
Jaime Breilh, Ecuador	Everardo Duarte Nunes, Brazil
Sergio Arouca, Brazil	Juan S. Yazlle Rocha, Brazil
Susana Belmartino, Argentina	César Ganado C., Colombia
Mario Agandoña, Bolivia	Benedictus Philade de Siqueira, Brazil
Guillermo González G., Nicaragua	Ana María Testa Tambellini, Brazil
Mario Testa, Argentina	Francisco de Asís Machado, Brazil
Francisco Campos, Brazil	Carmen Fontes Texeira, Brazil

