

Dear Congress participant,

The program you are holding is the result of more than a year of intense (although nearly invisible) work. During this year, the scientific committee has worked to organize the various Congress activities, receiving different proposals from groups and committees in ABRASCO and WFPHA, as well as from research and graduate studies groups from Brazil and abroad.

A substantial portion of this work was dedicated to receiving and analyzing the spontaneous flow of abstracts submitted freely for presentation during the Congress. We used the methodology that has been developed and improved successfully by ABRASCO during its recent congresses.

The interest awakened by the 8th Brazilian Congress on Collective Health and the 11th World Congress on Public Health, the vitality of the Public and Collective Health field, and the enormity of our task have all become evident in the record number of papers and posters received: a total of 9,669 studies, the majority of which from Brazil, but also including 625 international studies.

A total of 419 reviewers examined each study without knowledge of the authors, so as to ensure impartiality in the process. These reviewers, who are listed below, are highly qualified peers from the various component areas in Public and Collective Health.

Given the space limitations for holding simultaneous activities during the Congress, it was also necessary to conduct a further review of the studies approved for oral communications in order to adjust them to the existing limitations. We held a meeting on April 17-18, 2006, with 48 reviewers in addition to the committee itself, and which finally classified 663 studies for presentation in coordinated communications sessions and 28 in other forms of oral presentation. Among the international studies, 147 were selected for coordinated communications and 21 for other forms of oral presentation. This expanded committee also defined the composition of the various coordinated communications, with a total of 168 sessions.

Of the studies that were originally submitted, 7,533 were finally selected for poster presentations, 402 of which are by international authors.

Given the quality, diversity, and volume of the studies we analyzed, we are certain that this will be a memorable Congress. We dedicate this work to all the Congress participants in Brazil and worldwide who have worked day by day to achieve democratic, just, and inclusive collective health, and we thank the reviewers for their dedicated and silent assistance, without which the Congress itself would have been impossible.

Welcome to Rio, and we wish you all a productive and enjoyable Congress!

Kenneth Rochel de Camargo Jr.
Coordinator of the Scientific Committee

