

Letter from the editor

Carta do editor

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The insecurity that struck humanity from December 2019 onwards, caused by a severe influenza respiratory syndrome due to a new type of Coronavirus and the consequent recognition of the pandemic in the first months of 2020 led researchers, teachers, and students in the health field to focus their actions on understanding the etio-pathophysiology of the new disease, named COVID-19.

This period was marked by national and international cooperation, including the transition to remote work and remote teaching for millions of students, which enabled humanity to address this enormous challenge. In this volume of the journal *Anais da Faculdade de Medicina de Olinda*, the first works devoted to the topic appear, preceding the following edition, entirely devoted to the study of COVID-19.

The context of COVID-19 also initiated a broad debate about the practices of science, especially Medicine, at a speed never before experienced. To cite just one example, more than 30 years passed between John Snow's recognition of the cholera epidemic in London in 1850 and Robert Koch's discovery of *Vibrio cholerae* in 1883. Between the announcement of the first case of COVID-19 (not the identification of the new type of coronavirus) and the complete genetic mapping of the virus, a few days passed.

This effort, in the name of science, as represented by the studies published in this journal, also demonstrates the institutional capacity to maintain a commitment to seeking new understanding and producing scientific knowledge.

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