

Besrouer Center for Global Family Medicine

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Title: Ciência & Saúde Coletiva Journal : celebrating primary health care in the Ibero-American region

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Abstract

The International Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC) was held by the WHO in Alma-Ata, Republic of Kazakhstan 40 years ago. It expressed the “need for urgent action by all governments, all those working in the fields of health and development, and the world community to promote the health of all peoples of the world.” The so-called “Alma-Ata Declaration” emphasizing PHC and stressing the need for a special focus in developing countries was reaffirmed at the Astana Conference in 2018. Ciência & Saúde Coletiva - the leading Brazilian Public Health Journal according to Google Metrics for Portuguese language publications - launched a special edition in 2020

(https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_issuetoc&pid=1413-812320200004&lng=en&nrm=iso)

to mark this anniversary and reaffirm the importance of PHC.

The intention was to discuss the fundamental importance of PHC in the Americas and Ibero-American regions, and to underline how primary care, the clinical subset of PHC, plays a critical role at the intersection of clinical medicine and public health. The issue contained 21 articles on the topic, written by about 80 authors from nine countries (Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Jamaica, Haiti, United States of America, Canada, Portugal and Spain). Most of the articles were written by family doctors, public health professionals, teachers and researchers. The themes were divided under three axes: (1) management, care models, assessment of PHC organization and work process of PHC teams; (2) professional training in PHC (internship, residency programs, graduate degrees); and (3) epidemiological studies, information systems, electronic medical records and use of technologies to expand access (telehealth / telemedicine for remote areas). The key lessons will be drawn out and put into context