



Abstracts of the 12th Regional Scientific Conference of TEPHINET in the American Continent-Brazil September 25-28, 2023

We share in this last issue of volume 1 of the American Journal of Field Epidemiology, most of the abstracts presented at the 12th Regional Conference of the programs that form the international network of training programs in applied epidemiology (TEPHINET) and held in the capital of Brazil, Brasilia, from September 25 to 28, 2023.

The quality of the papers presented in Brasilia is truly impressive. A digital object identification or *doi* adds value to the publication of each abstract as it makes them easier the search on the internet.

Since 1998 I had the opportunity to prepare the first meeting of this type held in Bogota, which was attended by programs from the USA, Canada, Peru, and Colombia. Later in 2001 the next meeting was held in Cusco, Peru in collaboration with the Peruvian Society of Epidemiology. The topics at the TEPHINET meeting 25 years later have a larger variety, reveals greater capacity, the impact of the Frontline programs, and coverage in the region, reaching almost every country.

One must highlight the international work of the Brazilian Ministry of Health's Unified Health Service (EpiSUS) training program in field epidemiology, which has contributed to capacity building in the ministries of health of Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, including Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Cabo Verde, and Angola. EpiSUS colleagues carefully ensure that the lead authors of the papers are African colleagues.

Presenting a paper either as an oral or poster presentation at an international event should give the recent graduate in field epidemiology the necessary feedback from their peers to try to publish a full version of their work. We hope that field epidemiologists in the region will consider this journal for publication.

There are many reasons to consider our journal, but the main one is that the reviewers are all graduate epidemiologists from the programs who understand the nature and limitations of field work and appreciate the value of research that highlights novel findings either in terms of agents, new syndromes or diseases, or preventable risk factors or public health problems that have not deserved sufficient attention.

We look forward to more submissions of preliminary research and hope that we can thereby make our journal the forum for practitioners of epidemiology applied to the most pressing health problems in the continent, without excluding contributions from other regions of the world.

I am infinitely grateful for the hard work of the co-editors of this issue, our colleagues Fernanda Bruzadelli, a graduate of EpiSUS, and Dora Rafaela Ramirez, a graduate of FETP of Paraguay.

Victor Cardenas, MD, MSP, PhD, FACE
Editor-in-Chief of the RAEC, graduate of FETP Mexico.