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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

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Editorial

Maria Helena Simões
Villas Bôas 

At the end of March 2020, the **Vigilância Sanitária em Debate: Sociedade, Ciência & Tecnologia** (*Health Surveillance under Debate: Society, Science & Technology*) - Visa in Debate journal launched a call for the publication of scientific contributions in response to the health emergency arising from COVID-19. A fast track section was opened exclusively for manuscripts that addressed this topic, with the objective of expediting the publication of information that could help curtail the pandemic.

As a result, 84 manuscripts have been received over the past few months. This call has already resulted in the publication of debates, articles, and reviews in our latest edition (May 2020).

In this new edition (August 2020), we decided to publish an exclusive issue for COVID-19, due to the large number of contributions we received. For our readers, it is a special moment to learn and share updated and relevant knowledge about the pandemic in aspects related to health surveillance. This time, we are publishing three debates, nine original articles, five reviews, and four experience reports. Our debates draw a very bleak picture of the dynamics of the pandemic, its cruel impact on the poor and on Brazil's vulnerabilities and social inequality. The articles and experience reports talk about topics related to individual and collective safety, dealing with the pandemic in the Northeast and in Minas Gerais, prevalence of collective rights over individual rights in the use of masks, efficacy and safety of different pharmacological treatments, and misinformation spread by fake news. Our reviews brought together studies on scientific production in times of pandemic, the presence of viral particles in sanitary sewage, a critical view of workers' health and the pandemic, and the association between the concept of One Health and COVID-19.

We ended the fast track evaluation process in August, but we will continue to accept all types of qualified contributions on COVID-19 in the hope that we can improve the understanding and resolution of this global problem.

Finally, we offer our condolences to the bereaved families of thousands of Brazilians whose lives have been taken by the disease.

Enjoy the reading!

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