

# RIASE

REVISTA IBERO-AMERICANA DE SAÚDE E ENVELHECIMENTO  
REVISTA IBERO-AMERICANA DE SALUD Y ENVEJECIMIENTO

## EDITORIAL

Manuel Lopes – Doctorate in Nursing; Director of the School of Nursing – University of Évora

Here is the first issue of the [Ibero-American Journal of Health and Ageing \(RIASE\)](#)!

You may be asking, when there are already so many scientific journals, why another one?

In fact, we decided to go ahead and create this new journal for a number of reasons, which we consider distinctive, and at the same time, innovative.

The first of these reasons has to do with the theme of the journal – **Health and Ageing**. Ageing is inevitable in all developed countries, regardless of geography, and it is a subject that has come to the fore, forcing many researchers, politicians and the like to reflect on the issue. The results of these reflections often vary between bewilderment and alarmism, with the conclusions being presented as a problem. As a result, one of the aspects of this problem is health, with a correlation almost always being established between ageing and disease.

Despite this, as far as we are led to believe, only developed countries age. Therefore, we may conclude that ageing is a sign of development that presents us with new challenges we need to overcome. As a result, it is more of an opportunity than a problem.

One such challenge results precisely from this correlation between ageing with health. From whichever angle this is approached, we believe that this is currently one of the greatest challenges faced by health systems, regardless of their nature. In fact, the combination of health and ageing sets us face to face with the need for a major paradigm shift, the impact of which will be far-reaching. Current health systems were designed and developed based on the paradigm of acute illness. Demographic changes have led to epidemiological changes that we need to take into account when addressing health systems.

Perhaps the first major paradigm shift lies in the conceptual models for understanding the phenomenon. We believe that the scale of the challenge requires new and different conceptual models with multi- and cross-disciplinary approaches. This constitutes the desideratum of this journal. In other words, due to the nature of the intended subject of study, the Journal will accept articles from any subject area, but will focus on multi- and cross-disciplinary approaches that provide innovative answers.

The second reason stems from the first, but goes further. It has to do with the fact that this Journal is indelibly marked by two core aspects: it brings together not only researchers in multiple disciplines from different universities, but also two continents that share common languages. The different universities and the multiplicity of researchers reinforce the multidisciplinary nature mentioned above. They also reinforce the institutional bond that underpins this journal. The linguistic aspect aims to offer a dedicated space, not only for the reasons arising from its joint representation, but mainly due to the quality and diversity of its scientific production,

which is not given the corresponding space in Anglo-Saxon journals. Nevertheless, this Journal is not closed to contributions from any corner, just as it is not closed to the participation of other universities, provided that they are imbued with the same principles that shape this project.

A third reason lies in the non-commercial nature of this project. We are aware of the costs involved, and therefore intend to be self-sustaining. For this, we shall implement different strategies, among which publication exclusively in electronic form will be of particular importance. We do not reject the idea of including sponsors, but no article will be dependent on this or will be published for economic reasons.

The last reason has to do with quality and innovation. The challenge facing us demands a commitment to quality and innovation from all those who have social responsibility in this area. The quality requirement is founded on an ethical and moral rationale. It is not acceptable for the dignity of the elderly to be questioned or their rights jeopardised. This is also why, in research into the issue of health and ageing, quality is an essential requirement. This quality requirement requires us to set standards and goals. We give account of the former on the Journal site. In terms of goals, we can only say that we aim in the shortest possible time to have the Journal indexed in the most important indexing databases.

Innovation is, in turn, a requirement that stems from the nature of the problem. In fact, as far as we know, no society has ever been faced with a challenge of this nature – an ageing population and its implications on health and the health system. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be tested solutions. Thus, we need to be creative and innovative at all levels.

That is the challenge for the huge team that has conceived, designed and implemented this project, and I thank them publicly for their boldness and commitment.

It is also the challenge for all who participate in this project, or who intend to participate in future – to give their input in many different forms, so as to make the project a success.