

Homage to OPS on its hundredth anniversary

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On the second half of nineteenth century, the eclosion of social forces emerged from a changing society, forces which wanted to change the world and, in particular, the countries from all the Americas. Other forces came up due to the growing trade among nations and the expansion of technological and scientific development. The raising number of populations in various nations and the human groups' movements from the edge to the urban centers took place as the third wave of social forces. Along with that, great changes happened with people's health profile, their families and individuals, with major epidemics and pandemics. It's in this context that the necessity to discuss the development of a Health Panamerican Workshop (OPAS) happened, still in 1890.

At first, the Workshop goals aimed to orientate and help in the development of commercial interchange and cooperation among the countries in the Americas, most of all in the control of ports and sanitary aspects, which became later concepts about health and quality of life, work in health proposals and models into a social political and legal perspective.

Nursing starts to demarcate its space in the organization structure up to 1947, when the Nursing Section is created, by that time called International American Republics Workshop, later called Panamerican Sanitary Workshop. The OPAS' Nursing Section appears, with the main purpose to cooperate scientifically and technically in the development of Education and Assistencial Practice programs due to the necessity to fulfill its insertion in the Health Politics from the member countries of the Organization.

Throughout OPAS' evolution, the nursing cooperation programs happened, mainly, through *counselling and advising*, supporting other main aspects such as studies, practice diagnosis and the nursing education, contributing to the development of human resources formation and also training and continuous education. This contribution was important concerning work schedules, patterns and rules to strengthen the health services, including nursing, and also to develop the processes to amplify the covering of health actions and primary attention to the community. Some aspects have been pointed out such as, fortifying the interchanges between institutions into a

national and international perspective, as much as the development of scientific and technical events in the professional area. Particularly, in Brazil, we cannot forget to mention OPAS' deliberation for scholarships to teaching nurses and also service in traveling programs and short-term undergraduations. The project of the Organization textbook was priceless for the development of Nursing Courses and Schools.

Concerning Anna Nery Nursing School from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (EEAN/ UFRJ), with particular attention, we register the important performance of OPAS in four situations of interest for the institutional evolution:

- Collaboration in the development of human resources formation programs in general nursing and, mainly, for the formation of nurses in pediatrics and obstetrics.

To exemplify, we emphasize three o relevant undertakings: The proposal to give capability to obstetric nurses and midwives throughout the creation of the Interamerican Training Center for Obstetric Nurses – CITEO, which worked from the sixties, up to the beginning of the seventies. And in the nineties, the concession of technical and scientific cooperation of three seminars to discuss the obstetric nursing situation in the states of Piauí, Pará and Goiás.

Besides, with the mark of these three seminars, three Sections of the Brazilian Association of Obstetric Nurses and Midwives (ABENFO) have been implanted..

By the end of the nineties, some seminars have taken place to give capability to pediatric nurses in the basic attention of the child in the processes of growing and development.

- Counselling and advising in the discussions and elaboration of proposals for specialization, mastering and doctoral courses in nursing.

- Sponsoring for short-term scholarships and trips or interchange or improvement and development of professors in priority areas of nursing, mainly in public health and maternal-child nursing .

- Indication of professors from EEAN for institutional representation in international events concerning discussions on the needs of thematic areas to include new methodologies in study plans and programs, and the interest of the professional category.

As a matter of justice and right, it's indispensable to register the special participation of OPAS Advising Nurses, who gave their contribution to Brazil and to EEAN, among other personalities, we point out : Hilda Lozier, Nelly Rodó, Maricel Manfredi, Susana Espino, Martha Lígia Fajardo e Isabel Santos.

In this sense, not wanting to minimize the homage we celebrate to the Panamerican Health Organization on its hundredth anniversary, it's necessary that we register our sorrow for the expressive reduction in the number of Counselling Nurses, and with whom we could count on decisive moments on the Nursing progress, on the institutional pathways and on the health advances in development countries. Even in times of struggle for the supportable balance, the needs for social justice and help for everybody's rights, the ideal (we think) would be having the qualitative potential and a greater number of human resources in Nursing in the Panamerican Health Organization - OPAS.

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