

GGA: THE LIGHT TO SBGG AND TO NATIONAL GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY

GGA: farol para a SBGG e para a Geriatria e a Gerontologia nacionais

For 56 years, the Sociedade Brasileira de Geriatria e Gerontologia (SBGG) has been carrying out the task of aggregating knowledge, promoting continuous education, granting the title of Geriatrics and Gerontology Specialist, acting out in favor of the elderly in regulatory and governmental departments, and disseminating current scientific evidence about aging, which included the challenge of publishing the journal Geriatrics, Gerontology and Aging (GGA).

We have been through moments of ethical, moral and economic uncertainties in Brazil. Despite these events, SBGG and GGA, with the support of about 2,200 associates, still holds their standards of excellence in delivering scientific knowledge.

This issue of GGA has an article of geriatricians Professor Silmara Galera, Elisa Franco and Rosina Ribeiro on the always instigating theme of medical education in Geriatrics. The article refers to the shortage and poor distribution of health professionals as worldwide phenomena: one billion people have no access to a trained health professional, and the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates a deficit of 15% in the total number of doctors and nurses around the world. The numbers are impressive. The Brazilian legislation for aging, for decades, has been improved, including the training and qualification of human resources in the fields of Geriatrics and Gerontology, as in the National Policy for the Elderly (*Lei da Política Nacional do Idoso* – Law No. 8.842/1994) and the Statute of the Elderly (*Estatuto do Idoso* – Law No. 10.741/2003), which regards the inclusion of minimal contents about the aging process in the curricula of the many levels of formal education. Still, the deficit in professional training in national Geriatrics is surprising. The article instigates the warning on the responsibility of SBGG and other institutions and professionals in aging for a proper and continuous training as for the care for the elderly population, focusing on efficiency, competence and reasonable costs.

Therefore, great are the challenges to be overcome by the national Geriatrics and Gerontology, which GGA approaches with accuracy, pointing out the paths to be taken by SBGG. Thus, the National Directorate of SBGG for 2016–2018, as well as their predecessor, in agreement with the 17 State Sections and a representation, try to improve the participation and organization of scheduled regional events, in order to promote debates and great discussions. Moreover, and based on concerns similar to the ones in articles previously published in GGA, SBGG invests in new projects, with emphasis on the facilitator tool for approaching the first guidelines of will (“Cards on the Table”), for the publications of the Commission of Pain and for the second edition of the subcutaneous route guide.

I would like to say thanks on behalf of all geriatricians and Gerontology specialists, for the excellent work of our editor-in-chief, Dr. Einstein Camargos (Universidade de Brasília – UnB), and associate editors, Dr. Alexandre Busse (Universidade de São Paulo – USP), Dra. Ana Paula Marques (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco – UFPE), Dr. Fausto Pimenta (Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto – UFOP) and Dr. Otávio Nóbrega (UnB). GGA is the result of the great dedication of this team.

Best regards to the geriatricians and Gerontology specialists and associates, hoping you will enjoy a pleasant reading in this issue of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Aging.

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