



## Editorial

### Brazil, sports and dentistry

Currently, there is a social, political and economical mobilization taking place in Brazil to host two sporting events of planetary magnitude in our country: the Soccer World Cup (2014) and the Olympic Games (2016). The reasons for the nomination of Brazil by the International Olympic Committee and FIFA to host these events are linked to the World Bank estimates that Brazil will be the fifth world economy in 2016. One relevant aspect to point out is that these events will take place in a period of two years, something occurred only in Mexico, Germany and USA.

In parallel to sports, Brazil has been considered as a venue for scientific events in Dentistry. The International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Annual Meeting (2012) will be based for the first time in Brazil, with the beautiful waterfalls of Iguaçú Falls as the background. Several other meetings in Dentistry took place or are schedule to occur in Brazil. To cite a few, the FDI Annual World Dental Congress (2010), the International Federation of Esthetic Dentistry Meeting (2011), the Academy of Dental Materials Meeting (2011), the World Congress on Dental Traumatology (2012) and the International Congress on Oral Pathology and Medicine (2012).

As the World Cup and the Olympics refers to our economic strength, the IADR meeting and other international events summarize the relevance of Brazilian dental research in the world. Just to illustrate, a search of scientific literature in MEDLINE shows a significant increase in the number of scientific manuscripts authored and/or co-authored by Brazilians in the last 10 years (955 in 2000/2003; 1984 in 2003/2006; 3636 in 2006/2009 and 4448 in 2009/Nov 2011).

The status that Brazilian dental research has achieved results primarily from the incentive policies and the adoption of measuring criteria of scientific production in the Universities by the Brazilian Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes). The establishment of scientific goals for Graduate Programs and the financial support to students and researchers through national and international scholarships and research grants boosted the presence of Brazilian doctorate students and pos-doc professors on major research centers worldwide. Inevitably, such presence led the creation and consolidation of notable international cooperation networks among Brazilian universities and these centers.

Cultural and scientific exchanges flourishing from global events in sports and in science are the driving force for governments and sports/academic organizations to devote economical and social efforts to host them. The fruits harvested from such exchanges feed humanity to surpass unprecedented physical and scientific challenges and raise unique opportunities to establish its future goals in sports and science.

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