

The role of researchers after the COVID-19 pandemic

O papel do pesquisador no pós-pandemia de COVID-19

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In late 2019, the first cases of a disease, which would come to be known as COVID-19, emerged in a Chinese city, known for being the home to a market where wild animals were relatively common and to a virology laboratory of the highest security level. Coincidence or not, the debate about the origin of the disease involves these two places, and a lot of political interest. On the other hand, the tragedy that became one of the deadliest pandemics ever recorded has several other elements that are more or less important, depending on the moment and context.

In Brazil, specifically, the management of the pandemic still leaves much to be desired, despite the beliefs to the contrary of a minority who remains steadfast in their scientific ignorance. In any case, Brazil is moving forward with the application of the third dose of the vaccine (or booster dose, depending on who is of the opinion). And everything suggests that we will soon reach the vaccination of children. The setting produced by vaccination already shows a consistent reduction in cases and deaths, despite the appearance of new variants since the beginning of the pandemic. Unfortunately, despite the positive advances, the consequences of this pandemic are likely to remain for some time, requiring additional efforts from health professionals.

Studies have shown that this effort will include the attention to demands at the individual level, which include generalized anxiety, known and unknown sequelae, and post-COVID-19 prognostic factors⁽¹⁾; at the interpersonal level, the demands may be related to topics such as medium and long-term consequences

of social isolation, precarious social support during the pandemic, and of domestic violence during and after the pandemic⁽²⁾. At the collective level, questions will remain about the production and distribution of immunizing agents, the search for strategies to circumvent the increase in the social abyss caused by the pandemic, and all the processes of social and economic readaptation⁽³⁾.

In addition to these challenges, the strategies implemented and problems identified in the pandemic will continue to be relevant for some time, including the consequences of work overload, and the use of information technologies in teaching, research and professional education, and its consequences⁽⁴⁾. Therefore, there is a large number of issues to be addressed in the post-pandemic scenario. Unfortunately, our country that has been internationally discredited, to the point that a common joke in times of pandemic states that “in Brazil, even the past is unpredictable”.

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