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RECIIS closes year 2009 with the publication of a series of papers that once again prove the diversity of subjects and the scope and complexity of the research agenda in the field of Science, Technology & Innovation applied to the Health domain, which, in turn, enables the creation of forums for the cross-disciplinary exchange of information and communication (I&C).

In *International product development partnerships: innovation for better health?* Hanlin discusses the International Aids Vaccine Initiative, in Kenya, from the standpoint of “partnerships for product development” (PDP), more specifically in clinical trials for vaccine development. The initiative was conceived as a multiple and complex interaction process, whereas the author advocates a holistic and inclusive outlook on innovation in the health area, a systemic approach that encompasses the political views and opinions of all the players involved, both nationally and internationally, as well as the power relations that are woven in these partnerships and collaborations. She discusses the key role played by the exchange of knowledge between those involved in innovation activities and in health care activities, and suggests that the PDP should be taken beyond the borders of the ability to develop a new product.

At an attempt to foster collaboration among researchers within the clinical essay development sphere, Capretz et al. introduce the WebInVivo in the article *Web technologies in a collaborative platform for clinical trials*. The paper describes the development of an online platform that includes the interactive features of Web 2.0 for managing, sharing and reusing research protocols, which, amongst other things, implies a decrease in time and cost, and greater operational efficiency for the

production of new drugs. The authors highlight the challenges posed by the design and operation of flexible architectures that meet the specific needs of different users.

Chazan and Marques in *To me... It's the Rocky Mountains... consumption, spectacle and much more in obstetric ultrasound in Rio de Janeiro at the turn of the century* discuss, in the light of the Actor-Network Theory, the process that leads to the “stabilization” of technologies in society, a result of the stabilization of a heterogeneous network of actors, both human and non-human, and their corresponding speeches, which provides the base to the context where the “reliable knowledge” originates. Relying on the ethnography of pregnant women in private imaging clinics, the authors highlight ten elements - equipment, didacticism, tranquility, oracle, likings, prestige, market, media, pathology and purification – which, when overlapped with ultrasound, doctors, fetuses, pregnant women, and inserted in a set of practices, would configure “propositions candidate to entities of and empirical ontology of the technology of obstetric ultrasound in Rio de Janeiro at the turn of the century”.

Another perspective of “reliable knowledge” is probably the key aspect when Skill discusses the industrialized prospect of environmental liability in *Individualized Environmental Responsibility and Complexity in Sweden*. For the author, perception of environmental risks is closely related to the concept of trust. Skill's survey with heads of families shows that a concern about “the other” is the main reason behind pro-environment initiatives, but difficulty lies in defining the best actions. The argument is that the complexity of the subject, combined with a wide range of options and rationales, limits the

empowerment and competent individual action. The role of decision makers comes into play, which would point towards the greater relevance of the concept of a “society of trust”, as opposed to the “society of risk”. The alternative seems to lie in communication strategies that deal with the complexity of the issue, providing people with guidance about environmentally friendly options for the everyday house activities, and in a State initiative able to provide information about and create management systems for environmental problems.

This role of the State in the design and implementation of communication strategies is closely connected to the health education domain, a subject discussed by Nogueira et al. in the paper *Printed educational materials on sexual and reproductive health used in primary care in Belo Horizonte, MG: characteristics and a few considerations*. The authors perform an initial analysis of printed educational materials used by the Municipal Health Secretariat in the city of Belo Horizonte, and find the prevalence of a generalization of the target audience, associated with the logic of the linear communication model, as well as discursive practices solely based on the reproductive role of the body, at the expense of a broader view of sexuality. They emphasize the importance of reception studies, so that the production of educational materials is associated with the existential context of the youth, which may provide for more efficient and effective health promotion initiatives.

The forums for research regulation - a subject that has not yet been extensively challenged - is discussed in the paper by Pereira et al., *The role of the Internal Biosafety Commission: the experience of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute*. By presenting the experience of creating and restructuring the Internal Biosafety Committee of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute and of the biosafety management process, the authors discuss the Commitment network approach. A major role is assigned to an instance of collective settlement, the Coordination of Information, Communication and Informatics, which is responsible for the entire internal communication of the institution, and has a direct impact on organizational culture, as it fosters a

process of continuous professional training.

The issue of patents in the health area, especially after the international harmonization of patent protection after the Doha Declaration, is discussed by Fiani et al. in *The international economic debate on intellectual property: relevant aspects to the Brazilian health*. The argument is that the debate has not only been unsatisfactorily careful when it comes to evaluating the loss of monopoly of patents, but mainly it has not taken into account the cost generated by the protection of intellectual property for public programs, with a strong impact on social welfare, as is the case with health. As a consequence, the authors note that wherever there is divergence there is also room for negotiation, and call for the country to act accordingly.

A survey of therapeutic guidelines prescribed by a public municipal mental health service is the key subject of the article by Dalmolin et al. Data collected from the medical records of 1,456 patients of a service unit in the city of Santa Maria / RS led the authors to find that only 13% of these patients received treatment that combined psychotherapy and psychopharmacological therapies. The biologist characteristic focusing on the prescription of drug, the excessive demand, the lack of professionals, the perception of the cause of the disease, the expectation of prescription and the selection of the most serious cases are listed as possible explanations for the prevalence of psychopharmacological treatments. The persistence of such an approach, typical of psychiatric hospitals in public ambulatory units leads to a prolonged treatment and to an overburdening of services, which implies psychosocial and financial costs for the patient and for the health system.

In the review section, the growing role of expertise in political decisions and its implications for democracy, the revision of the concept of device applied to the documentation, the discussion about a non-reductionist view of science and the future courses and scope of the process of building social security in Brazil are subjects discussed in the books presented in this issue. The experience of mental illness is discussed in the movie reviews section of this edition.