

MULTIDISCIPLINARITY AND PERTINENCE

This issue of *Interciencia* marks the beginning of the forty-second year of uninterrupted existence, exemplifying the two driving principles of the journal. Its multidisciplinary character was declared from its very beginnings, in 1976, as a response to the scarcity of needed scientific journals of such nature in our region, and has been maintained as the guiding axis of its editorial line. Nonetheless, multidisciplinary entails dilution with its corresponding inconveniences. Then, how to canalize this particular character in order not to get lost in the vastness of themes and approaches existing among the practitioners of scientific and technological research?

The answer is the pertinence that published papers have for the development and wellbeing of the people of the region. Manuscripts admitted for peer refereeing are evaluated inasmuch the pertinence that the theme and the approach used by the authors implies. We try to answer the question of whether it is or is not a valid contribution in order to increase the degree of wellbeing of our people and the development of our nations.

The article that opens the current issue highlights the importance of the interaction space between the social sciences and the natural sciences. The authors evaluate the degree of participation of the inhabitants of one case among many of one of the most notorious efforts by the international community for the conservation of biodiversity in the planet, which are the Reserves of the Biosphere. It deals with a Reserve in South-East Mexico and analyzes the perceptions of the population living within its borders regarding its management and the wellbeing they derive from its existence.

As is usual in *Interciencia*, the section of Research Reports predominates. There, in the present case, are included reports of investigations in very varied fields of knowledge. They span from the study of consequences for benthic communities of dead whales stranded in our coasts to the analysis of particulate material in the atmosphere of areas where there are open coal pits, whose permanent monitoring is of obligatory character in order to protect the health of the dwellers of neighboring communities.

One paper focuses on biochemical processes taking place at the membrane of hydrocarbon degrading bacteria, while another deals with the modeling and prediction of the biomass present in tropical jungles, universally acknowledged as the lungs of the planet, continuously menaced by the human being depredataory activity.

Later, mathematical models of production lines and machine functionality contrast with the possibility that hereditary factors protect from acute mountain sickness. The first is a matter of capital importance if the optimization of industrial processes, while the other illustrates the search about the role of hereditary factors in a condition that constitutes a relevant problem in a continent with great elevations, such as our Andean mountains.

In the Essays section are dealt topics that are very distant from one another, although all are relevant and pertinent to the wellbeing of our peoples. The theoretical approaches about the territorial development of food production are discussed, as well as the part played by beaurocracy in the management and governance of higher education institutions. Finally, another paper looks in depth at the problems of the ever more notorious ageing of man and its implications in public policies.

The issue is closed with a critical review of a recent publication of particular interest for the Latin American region. It is a compilation of papers that demonstrate the importance acquired by the information and communication technologies in the study and handling of several diseases that, as they do not represent major public health problems in developed countries, they do not receive the expected attention from the international scientific community. Those are our illnesses, with a large social and productive significance, that must be taken care of by our researchers, using the most advanced technologies available to them.

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