

Editorial

No country can progress without science: 25 years of Sbrafh

Nenhuma nação consegue evoluir sem ciência: 25 anos da Sbrafh

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In 1999, Hin and Subramaniam published a comment in Nature entitled “Scientific societies build better nations”. They emphasized the science and the technology as agents of change, and the arrival of the new millennium was pointed out as a milestone for developing countries not to isolate themselves from the global economic profile¹. Four years earlier, on May 21st, 1995, a group of visionary pharmacists founded the Brazilian Society of Hospital Pharmacy and Health Services (Sociedade Brasileira de Farmácia Hospitalar e Serviços de Saúde, Sbrafh) with values based on ethics, commitment, integrity, transparency, respect, responsibility, and knowledge.

Since the establishment of the Royal Society in the UK in 1660, several non-governmental organizations emerged over the following two hundred years across Europe and North America¹. In Latin America, 475 were listed in 1939². Made up by professionals with altruistic goals, scientific societies promote, guide, and favor the dissemination of scientific knowledge. Thus, among other things, they have been operating as powerful editors of scientific journals, contributing to the quality of research in the various fields in which they operate¹.

Sbrafh's story was no different. With more than 5,000 members, it was managed by twelve presidents and several directors, representing pharmacists in working groups at the Ministry of Health and at the Federal Pharmacy Council. In 2011, it acquired its headquarters in Vila Mariana (São Paulo) and, since 2017, it has regional offices in all the Brazilian states.

Seeking social and professional recognition, it participated in the advances in Brazilian pharmacy in the past 25 years. It experienced the improvement of technology assessment and the definition of clinical guidelines, the automation and development of processes, especially in control and management, the changes in the way of preparation and distribution of medications, and the increase in therapeutic monitoring and other pharmaceutical services for the effective and safe use of medications.

For the enrichment of these services to occur, it was necessary to increase the number of pharmacists in the hospitals and the number of undergraduate and graduate teaching hours, including the availability of internship vacancies throughout Brazil. Motivated by its precept of “Pharmacists taking care of people's health and well-being”, the Sbrafh promoted over 200 free courses for 6,000 professionals across the country. Between 2018 and 2019 alone, there were 73 in nineteen Brazilian states, addressing topics such as hospital accreditation, quality indicators, leadership, patient safety, venous thromboembolism prophylaxis, antimicrobial stewardship, and pharmaceutical care in the most diverse scenarios and contexts. It has already graduated 316 professionals specialized in Hospital Pharmacy and 109 in Clinical Pharmacy, whose certifications are recognized by the Federal Pharmacy Council.

It has five Technical Commissions (TCs) on topics related to patient safety, prevention and control of nosocomial infections, radiopharmacy, acting in the veterinary field and pharmaceutical care in pediatrics and neonatology to discuss information and produce scientific technical material for the members. At this time when we face a global pandemic, the “Pharmaceutical Care in Coping with Covid-19” TC was created, and it has been working on the screening and organization of guidelines to support the Brazilian pharmacists.

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It held twelve congresses (two of which were international), in different regions of Brazil, bringing together more than 15,000 participants with the presentation of 176 lectures, debates in 94 round tables, and 34 courses and 25 symposia. Three of these symposia were held by the Brazilian Society of Pharmacists in Oncology. With the support of the Racine Institute, 72 papers were awarded, including full articles and abstracts. Currently, these congresses are biannual and recognized as the largest South American event in the area. As a member of the South American Coordinating Office for the Development of Hospital Pharmacy (Coordinadora Sudamericana para el Desarrollo de la Farmacia Hospitalaria, COSUDEFH), the Sbrafh has sought to establish lines of joint work for the continuous growth of hospital pharmacy in South America, with the exchange of knowledge and successful experiences.

In partnership with the Observatory of Surveillance and Use of Medications of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, it edited and published the translated version of the Handbook for the Manipulation of Drugs Required in Children (MODRIC), prepared by a team of health professionals and researchers from the Kingdom United. It also signed a collaboration agreement with the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (ASHP) for the translation of checklists to prevent contagion by the new coronavirus.

Throughout its existence, while fundamental rules for the field were edited, such as Resolutions 300 (1997)³, 492 (2008)⁴, and 585 (2013)⁵ of the Federal Pharmacy Council, and Ordinance 4,283 (2010)⁶ from the Ministry of Health, the Sbrafh published three editions of the Minimum Standards in Hospital Pharmacy and Health Services (1997, 2008, and 2017) and two editions of the Standards for Pharmaceutical Internships in Hospitals and other Health Services (2007 and 2017). In 2009, fulfilling its commitment to the dissemination of quality technical information, the Sbrafh coordinated and published the 1st edition of the Guide to Good Practices in Hospital Pharmacy and Health Services, a work that has become a reference in the area. In honor of his silver Jubilee, the 2nd edition of the Guide is being launched in April. These documents give meaning to the Sbrafh's contributions to the technical and scientific development of Hospital and Clinical Pharmacy in Brazil, both in the practical context and in the operationalization of services, as well as in the context of training.

In 2010, considering its role in promoting scientific communication and the value of evidence-based practices, the Sbrafh took on the challenge of launching the Brazilian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy and Health Services (Revista Brasileira de Farmácia Hospitalar e Serviços de Saúde, Rbfhss) which, in 2020, presents a new layout. In its first decade, the Rbfhss published approximately 250 papers in 34 issues, freely accessible and online. In 2018, all the articles were also published in English. In 2019, the RBFHSS electronic article submission system gained a new, more modern, agile, and practical format, allowing for the improvement of the electronic management of the editorial process and for the contribution to streamlining communication.

In view of so many joint achievements, we reiterate our invitation to all the pharmacists working in hospitals and other Brazilian health services to continue with us this work that, once started and combined with effort and dedication, is promising, necessary, and (why not?) inspiring.

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