

This issue of Brazilian Journal of Human Growth and Development is dedicated to publish topics that were exhibited and discussed during the First International Symposium of Forensic Hospital and Mental Health, on September 2009 at the School of Public Health at USP. This event, which brought together national and international expressive names of mental health, justice, welfare and human development areas aimed to encourage discussion, reflection and forward proposals to adjust the current model governing hospitals in forensic psychiatric care within the guidelines of the Psychiatric Reform.

The symposium was sponsored by the Health Coordinator of Sao Paulo Corrections Department and Collective Mental Health Laboratory of the Maternal and Child Health Department, School of Public Health of USP, which in partnership with the Regional Council of Psychology was supported by CAPES. The spirit that led it was the host for different opinions and ways of expression. The Brazili-

an Journal of Growth and Development disseminated in print and online the main voices of the symposium and, thus, joined the effort of all stakeholders and participants to highlight the issue of forensic psychiatric hospitals in the Brazilian scenario. A collection of texts of this number is expected to represent a mark in the literature because it brings together in a broad spectrum, analysis, experiences and opinions concerning a major issue, but it remains in the shadow of the mental health field.

Finally, we express our deep gratitude for all involved in the Symposium and effort to publish the manuscripts in the Journal, which also received financial support from the Health Coordinator of Sao Paulo Corrections Department.

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