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EDITORIAL



The identification of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as the etiological agent of tuberculosis, conducted by Robert Koch in 1882, enabled the development of important tools for controlling the disease, such as vaccines, antibiotics and diagnostic methods. Nevertheless, this old disease, which follows humanity since ancient times, still makes thousands of victims worldwide, killing more than one million people annually, especially in the poorest regions of the planet. In recent years, the knowledge about tuberculosis and *M. tuberculosis* increased significantly, giving rise to a new generation of preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic tools that can minimize the morbidity and mortality caused by tuberculosis.

The VII SLAMTB MEETING, along with IV NATIONAL TB NETWORK WORKSHOP, from 14-17 September 2014 in the city of Canela-RS, organized a program, which will address various issues related to tuberculosis and other mycobacterial infections, ranging

from basic research to translational research. Both events have over 300 registrants from 17 countries and 20 Brazilian states, 200 abstracts submitted and 86 speakers, of which 31 from abroad.

Holding an event of this magnitude is only possible when it involves a partnership that goes from those involved with the organization to the sponsors and supporters of the event. However, the importance of the event is given by the participation of speakers and participants that traveling from distant places bring to the academic setting the most update and promising findings on tuberculosis and other mycobacterial infections. Thus, we thank all those who made this event possible and who brightened it with their presence.

We are sure that we will come out stronger from this event, not only for the knowledge gained, but also by the partnerships established.

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