Publishing a Dermatology book with an emphasis on public health has a great meaning: it demonstrates that the health of a population is intrinsically related to the social conditions into which it is inserted.

Dermatology is a specialty of daily human suffering, and we consider that each professional involved in care can act to minimize this. Furthermore, it is essential that managers of health systems acquire knowledge of the epidemiologic characteristics of the main dermatologic diseases.

We hope that this book will be useful to students and professionals who are interested in understanding patients with a dermatologic problem and, within academic, scientific, and ethical high precepts, seek to help; and that it is also useful for understanding the multiple relationships that exist between public health and the environment, socioeconomic conditions, and priorities determined by governments and nations.

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Completion of this work would not have been possible without concepts highly valued in public health: collaboration, sharing, and collective construction. Thus, we acknowledge the dedicated and competent work of all authors and co-authors as well as the Dermatology services that provided images from their files. It is also important to highlight the key role played by Susan Westendorf (Springer) and Gabriel Pires in assisting to resolve the various issues that arose throughout the publishing process. In addition, I would like to thank Daniela, Francisco, Pedro, Ademar and Yuçara for their love and encouragement. Special thanks to Professor Lucio Bakos for the academic example.

Dedication

This book is for all those who dedicate their professional lives to Public Health and, to represent them, I dedicate it especially to Yuçara T. Rangel Bonamigo, a Brazilian nurse who worked in Public Health for many years, as an actual humanistic reference.

Porto Alegre, Brazil

Renan Rangel Bonamigo, MD, PhD
Preface by Sergio Ivan Torres Dornelles

Public health are words that elicit the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life, enabling health and physical and mental efficiency through the community’s organized endeavor. This book results from one idea and the opportunity to make available to health care teams an enriching material to help increase the knowledge of dermatologic diseases affecting the population, by aiming higher than the characteristics that help diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. Some chapters in this book address a series of appropriate measures to develop a social structure that possibly provides all social individuals with necessary health care. This team work by Springer, the editors, and authors certifies health accomplishments that enable an outstanding level of knowledge in Dermatology.

It is already known that the scientific research is traditionally based on reliability. In order to keep such virtue intact and unsuspicious in the scientific environment, a reliable work has to allow for the validation of the reported results by accepting what is made known by the specialized literature as a source of new knowledge. Therefore, the so-called scientific community has to follow behavioral standards not only in the research itself but also in the disclosure of the acquired information and knowledge. These standards were strictly followed in this book because the invited authors have undisputedly followed them. For this reason we are extremely grateful for their extensive contribution to this project and commitment to science.

As editors we expect this book to provide easy access to knowledge for all professionals related to public health, and the provision of improved health and comfort to the population.

Acknowledgements

Life provides many moments to say “thank you”. This is one of these moments. Teachers, colleagues, students, patients, they all had significantly motivated us to write this book and that is why we must thank them all. We now say “Thank you” and want you to feel honored.

But I send my special thanks to my family, always central when opportunities must be sought. Therefore, the major foundation which guided my steps toward this goal is my family. My parents provided me a wonderful experience during a first phase; three extremely significant people were the highlights during the second phase, my wife Susana, and my sons Lúcio and Marcel. Thank you so much!
Dedication

For this work to have a long reach in time we must dedicate it to those who somehow helped us to write it. So this book is for all my colleagues from the Outpatient Clinic of Sanitary Dermatology (Ambulatório de Dermatologia Sanitária), where I had worked for three decades, a place that taught me how to give comfort to the less favored. But I have to mention that it was a sought after and cultivated idea which enabled us to collect all of this information, whose progenitor was Professor Renan Rangel Bonamigo, well known for his scientific capacity and ethics. To Prof. Bonamigo, the main editor of this book and a scientific partner for over a decade, we should give full credit.

Another name has to be mentioned, that of Professor Roberto Lopes Gervini, since he was one of my most outstanding masters to whom I owe the most considerate thanks in the fields of science and life.

There is also room to honor all patients who trusted us with their faith and hope in our procedures, people who gave us the opportunity to learn all those details that do not belong in the medical literature.

Porto Alegre, Brazil

Sergio Ivan Torres Dornelles, MD, MSc
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