During the 6th Congress on Health and Life held in Loja, Ecuador in March 2009 the first volume of the works of Edmundo Granda—composed of those touching on globalization and health—was presented by the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health, the Ecuadorian National Board of Health, the National Council of Higher Education, the University of Cuenca (Ecuador), Loja National University (Ecuador) and the Latin American Social Medicine Association (ALAMES).

The second volume was presented last November 2009 at the 11th Congress of ALAMES held in Bogota, Colombia. This book is composed of 16 articles on health research, human resources, and other health related fields.

Edmundo’s articles on research allow us to see just why he was such a captivating and inspiring teacher. Initially, the nature of concrete thinking seems to have the certainty of determinism. But, relying on the work of Maturana, Habermas, and Touraine, Edmundo demonstrates how the very act of observation changes what is observed. Human resources development was another of his passions. He was instrumental in the founding and development of several schools of public health and social medicine in Latin America. This work was at the center of his important political activities undertaken from within the Pan American Health Organization.

Not coincidentally, the publication of this volume coincides with another recognition of his legacy; the Latin American Social Medicine collection at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center has been named after him.

His many contributions to the field of social medicine enriched the debate on health sector reform. Although his work was done during the heyday of neoliberalism, it resulted in proposals for the transformation of the health care sector. These ranged from the use of traditional medicine to the development of intercultural tools that would be used in the

Zaida Betancourt is an Ecuadorian physician with specialized training in gender and intercultural studies. She consults for both national and international organizations. Email: zaidabetancourt@hotmail.com
elaboration of a new epidemiology. This latter proposal has yet to receive sufficient attention in policy debates.

This volume is also a tribute to Clarita Merchán, his wife. She did not bear living without her soul mate and joined him on October 3, 2009, passing away on the same day as Mercedes Sosa.

There is a feeling of enormous satisfaction for the institutions that made possible the publication of this book that it was presented at the 11th Conference of the Latin American Social Medicine Association, now celebrating its 25th birthday. ALAMES was enriched by Edmundo’s great strength, patience, and unwavering confidence in the force and purpose of collective action.

The task of collecting Edmundo’s works has yet to be completed. A third volume is planned which will include commentaries on his work. Readers are invited to contribute to this volume.

Table of Contents

On Health Research
- Building the image of the object, 1988
- Social commitment in health research, 1990
- Reflections on the actuality and contextualization of reality during action/research in Collective Health, 1993
- Research and public health: a look towards the future, 1996
- Community behavior and prevention of cholera. Case studies in the marginal urban population of Guayaquil, 2000
- Research Protocols, 2002
- Research in health systems and services, 2004

Human Resources in Health
- Guidelines for the development of human health resources in the context of sector reform, 1996
- Contextual changes and their impact on human health resources, 1998
- Community Health Worker training: some reflections, 2000
- The status of human resources in the health sector in Latin America, 2004

Action on health:
- Epidemiological surveillance: space, subject, and action, 1994
- Labor and health process: some reflections, 1996
- Traditional medicine, non-traditional health systems, and reform of health care services, 1997
- Globalization and health reform, 1998
- Some reflections on health sector reform in Ecuador: 2000