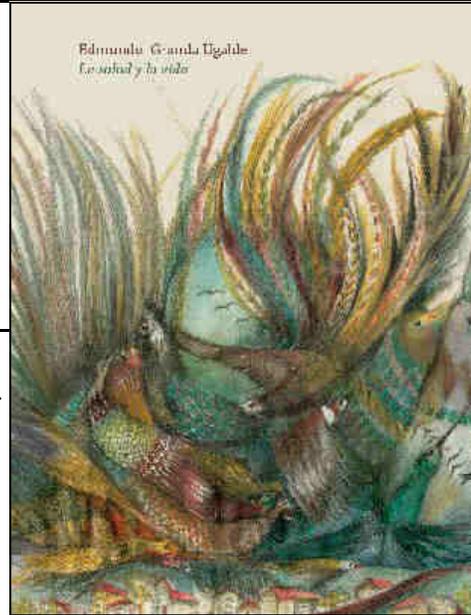




Health & Life: A tribute to the late Edmundo Granda Ugalde

Zaida Betancourt



At the initiative of several Ecuadorian organizations – the National Council of Health (CONASA), the University of Cuenca, the National University of Loja, and the National Council of Higher Education (CONESUP) – and with the collaboration of both the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Latin American Social Medicine Association (ALAMES), we are pleased to announce the publication of selected writings by Edmundo Granda as well as a volume of tributes to him and his work.

We initially thought that three authors would be enough for this project. However, it soon came apparent that Edmundo's life was far richer than just those mo-

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ments the three of us had shared with him. Any proper memorial would require perspectives from many different people. We should point out that the initial editorial team excluded many people who were either unable to participate or unwilling to do because of the pain they felt over his death. In the end some of Edmundo's friends contributed articles; others contributed ideas. Bit by bit we grew closer to the full picture of our friend and teacher's life.

The editors reviewed all of Edmundo's writings, classified them, and then selected the key articles. In the first volume of his works we emphasize Edmundo's commitment to collective health and social medicine. This commitment is evident from his very first paper written for CEAS (*Centro de Estudios y Asesoría en Salud*, Center for Health Studies and Consulting), to the last one written while he was at PAHO. Edmundo's legacy has special relevance today for his insistence that the work of health be centered in a public

sphere that existed beyond the confines of the State; his focus on wellness in its diverse forms, rather than on disease; and his inclusion of all the multiple actors whose actions affect health.

The first volume includes a CD containing Edmundo's books, the majority coauthored with other researchers from CEAS. The second volume will contain a selection of Edmundo's articles on diverse subjects, such as health research, human resource formation, health reform, communication and health promotion. The third volume will bring together some of Edmundo's artistic work. The third volume will include appreciations and reflections on Edmundo's work written by his associates in Ecuador as well as his collaborators in ALAMES.