



ALAMES Remembered: Selected Readings (2009)

ALAMES en la memoria: Selección de lecturas. Editors: Francisco Rojas Ochoa & Miguel Márquez, Editorial Caminos, La Habana, Cuba, 2009.

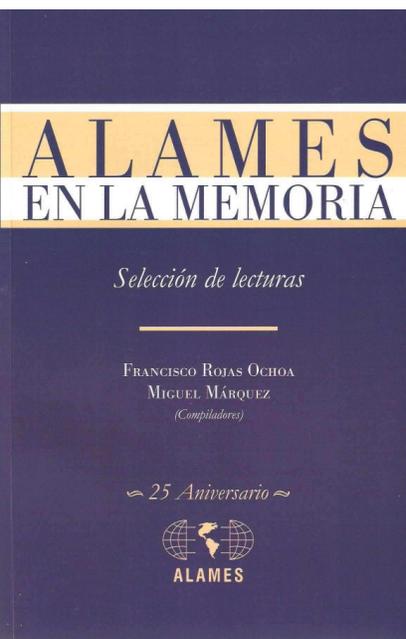
The 11th Congress of the Latin American Social Medicine Association (ALAMES), took place in Bogotá, Colombia from November 14 to 19, 2009. This congress celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Association.

Drawing on ALAMES' 25 years of the work, Francisco Rojas Ochoa (Cuba), proposed the publication of a book composed of papers presented at the previous meetings convened by the Association. This proposal was made with the assistance of Miguel Márquez (Ecuador) and Leticia Artiles (Cuba). The proposal was accepted by the General Coordination of ALAMES.

The book is not a history of ALAMES; such a history is a project for the future. Rather, it includes the most representative works that have been presented in the numerous meetings organized by the Association. In many cases these papers later appeared in published form. They exemplify the enthusiasm and tenacity in the fight for the health of Latin Americans expressed at the conferences.

In the foreward, Catalina Eibenschutz notes: "This book

brings together some of the work carried out over a period of twenty-five years by the Latin American Social Medicine Association (ALAMES). The Association has endured amid the vagaries of numerous historical,



political, and social changes affecting the different countries of the region in recent years. This has been possible thanks to the continuing flexibility of our organization and, above all, the commitment and dedication of its

members during these difficult times."

The Introduction points out that, despite many obstacles, the dedication and interest of the loyal and hardworking ALAMES membership have resulted in many excellent papers. "The membership, more than the compilers, ensured the success of this edition."

The book is divided into three parts. In the first part entitled "Facts and Challenges" contains a paper written by Deborah Tajer (Argentina) and published in *Health and Globalization* (FADESP, Madrid, 2004). Tajer's paper examines the origins and main thematic areas of ALAMES as well as the development of Latin American social medicine in the 1990's. This work is not a complete history but does touch on the basic concepts of social medicine and its development in Latin American during over the momentous years of the twentieth century.

In the second part, entitled "Remembering," the core of the work appears. The section includes 40 presentations beginning with the very special 1972

Cuenca meeting (Meeting on the Teaching of Social Sciences in Medical Schools) which is considered the first congress of the Association up until the 10th, Congress in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil in 2007. These works cover a wide range of topics including: human resources training, conceptualization of community health, epidemiology of communicable and chronic diseases, neoliberalism and health, the transnational pharmaceutical industry, the deterioration of social security, popular participation, and gender and health. This part also includes most of the “Juan César García” plenary lectures, which since the death of this leader of Latin American social medicine, are delivered at the beginning of each congress.

Some of the important works

presented at various workshops, seminars and conferences could not be located; this explains the absence of some well-known and appreciated authors.

The third part of the book, entitled "ALAMES in the Future", was prepared by the General Coordinators. It sets out a conceptualization of the Association as a basis for projections into the future. The authors present the Association's principles, tactics, and strategies as well as tasks and a calendar of events. The future prospects for the association are reviewed.

The work consists of 835 pages in 23 cm x 15 cm format. The work was published by ALAMES, Cuba, and Editorial Caminos, La Habana, Cuba. In accordance with Cuban copyright law the work is protected and

must be freely distributed. This publication was made possible with the assistance of the Pan American Health Organization.

This book—while not complete—provides a broad reference to the work done by the leading exponents of Latin American social medicine over the past 25 years

About the Editors

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