

Editorial

THIS issue seeks to achieve a core objective of the Institute of Advanced Studies, namely, to combine academic research and interest in improving our public policies.

The fields of scientific knowledge covered in this edition – *Medicine, Physiology, Sociology, Ecology* and *Nuclear Physics*, among others – are directly articulated with burning questions of Brazilian society, e.g., pockets of poverty, malnutrition, the public health system and energy policy.

Interviews with scientists and experts bring to the dossiers the voice of intellectuals who have been developing their areas of scholarship and innovating their public activism. *ESTUDOS AVANÇADOS* would like to thank the valuable collaboration of professor Ana Lydia Sawaya, who organized the Nutrition and Poverty dossier, and interviewees Eugênio Vilaça Mendes (“25 Years of Brazil’s Unified Health System”) and Ildo Sauer (“Energy Policy”), as well as testimonials on nuclear energy by professors Joaquim Francisco de Carvalho and Roberto Hukai.

The editorial board deeply laments the death of one of our contributors, Dr. Bertha Becker, an internationally renowned geographer who militated in behalf of the Amazon rainforest and was a strong advocate of sustainable development in Brazil.