

Presentation (I)

Issue number 28 of the *Cadernos do Desenvolvimento* journal, edited by the International Celso Furtado Center, is published at a unique moment. The year 2020 marked the 120th anniversary of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) and the centenary of Celso Furtado, a symbolic coincidence that would give rise, in less troubled times, to broad reflection. The circumstances imposed themselves with the tragic announcement of the new coronavirus pandemic, a complex problem that highlights multiple other issues underlying the national reality. Both the institutional vocation of Fiocruz and the richness of thought structured by Celso Furtado are fundamental tools for addressing the problems that currently afflict Brazilian society, as well as understanding and responding to them.

Fiocruz was created in 1900 to manufacture serums and vaccines for the bubonic plague and, since then, it has always been present in facing the great challenges of Brazilian public health, and this has been the case with actions to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, with a systemic, from care to the training of health professionals, the formulation of new knowledge and the production of the vaccine via technological order.

Celso Furtado, great economist and interpreter of Brazil, is also essential at this moment. Furtado highlighted that development is only possible when we are able to identify the structural origins of our problems and, based on this understanding, develop appropriate solutions. A component of this diagnosis is the need for a national productive and innovative system. Fiocruz, in its 120 years of history, incorporates this perspective of integrated action, associating theoretical knowledge with productive experience and always being guided by the pressing issues of its time.

It is the demands of society and the requirements of health systems

committed to universal access and equity, combined with the existence of national productive capacity, that should guide the priorities to link, from the beginning, the direction of health research in a translational way. The connection between these dimensions is fundamental to ensure that health research meets society's demands in a concrete way.

This perspective requires research efforts to understand the set of ongoing transformations, heightened by the health, social and economic crisis environment caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Understanding this set of transformations is vital for us to act in the present in order to build a universal health system suited to contemporary needs. This work is a contribution to making rapid progress in this ongoing construction and in this fundamental agenda for the country.

Good reading.



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