



BETWEEN CLINICS AND LABORATORIES: CHAGAS DISEASE, CLINICAL EXPERTISE AND GOIÁS MEDICINE (1950-1960)

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Abstract

The School of Medicine from Goiás State was founded in 1960. It represented the apex of the medicine institutionalization in this State. Its constitution is based on an intellectual network that involved doctors of the hinterland and renowned scientists interested in tropical diseases and in a favorable context in which rural endemic diseases was under discussion. The campaign against these diseases, which were considered obstacles to development of the region, became extremely important reaching a national scale in the mid-twentieth century, revealing the medical group from Goiás State who was specialized in these diseases. Chagas disease was among their main targets.

With data from clinical research, doctors of the hinterland pointed a critical picture of health in Central Brazil due to trypanosomiasis. Furthermore, in consequence of the large number of patients who were cared in their clinics and the support assisted from research centers with better resources (such as IOC), these doctors were able to describe a new clinical form of the disease: the digestive form. Expertise concerning this topic circulated through scientific conferences and Goiás Medical Journal –whose articles were summarized for the Tropical Diseases Bulletin and in which doctors like Alipio Correa Netto and Cecilio Romaña have published.

The substantial interest in Chagas disease and the originality of the knowledge produced have provided visibility to doctors from Goiás and active participation in an intellectual network interested in tropical diseases that exceeds borders. Thus, medical and scientific knowledge have circulated in a continuous and fruitful flow between coast and hinterland, between centers and peripheries. In this sense, this work aims to show the circulation of people, knowledge and scientific practices between different regional and institutional spaces. Follow this movement is critical to

the identification of strategies through which doctors from Goiás have consolidated a research field with resonance inside and outside the country.