



VITAL BRAZIL - A TRAJECTORY TO BE RELEARNED

Erico Teixeira Vital Brazil*, Tania Kobler Brazil**

**Instituto Vital Brazil, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; erico@vitalbrazil.net*

***Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador, Bahia, Brasil; taniabn@ufba.br*

Abstract

Facing challenges and being persistent in solving them seems to be a common profile to the great names of science in our planet. Many of these persons were considered mad, some of them had their findings questioned and rejected, others were isolated from society or even killed as a result of their searches. Generally, the recognition of their achievements has been in a time elapsed beyond their lifetime. Therefore, we bring here the Vital Brazil's trajectory as part of the rescue of this recognition. The physician and hygienist Vital Brazil Mineiro da Campanha (1865-1950), best known as Dr. Vital Brazil, faced his first challenge under childhood and youth: study to be doctor. His family had financial difficulties, which has followed him also during the course of medicine. When starting professional activities in the city of Botucatu (1895), Minas Gerais, his second challenge arose: get a medicine to cure the injured by poisoning snakes. Against all contrary arguments, on both the challenges faced, he persisted in his quest. He graduated doctor (1891), practiced medicine (1892-1897) and researched (1897, 1898, 1901), overcoming fear of snakes and counter-arguing on the specificity of the anti-venom serum with the greatest names of Science of that time. His third challenge came as a result of his social and humanitarian profile: produce the serum. Throughout the time he was ahead of the Butantan Institute and the Vital Brazil Institute, he became a manager and enterprising, but he went further. He added new and different professionals to the institutions, established procedures for scientific and popular dissemination, created employment relationships with their employees. He donated to the Brazilian government the patent of the anti-venom serum (1917). Few scientists we can mention, with such a complete profile with multi and interdisciplinary features, entrepreneurship, innovation, humility and sense of social responsibility.