



**AN AMERICAN DISEASE? CIRCULATION OF  
KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENTIFIC CONTROVERSY ABOUT  
THE LEISHMANIASIS IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN  
CONTINENT (1909 -1927)**

**Denis Guedes Jogas Junior \***

*\* Doutorando da Casa de Oswaldo Cruz (COC/FIOCRUZ)  
denis.jogas@hotmail.com*

**Abstract**

This work aims to analyze scientific debate occurred in the first decades of the twentieth century, about the different pathogenic manifestations that would be grouped in 1906 under the name of leishmaniasis and in particular, those considered “American”. The process of building scientific knowledge about this group of diseases mobilized doctors and researchers of different nationalities who were dedicated to the institutionalization of the field of tropical medicine. Involved in a controversy about the characterization of clinical manifestations and pathogenic agents of the South American continent, researchers interested in the problem posed by leishmaniasis sought to understand the reasons for which the pathogenic manifestations observed in these territories had different characteristics when compared to the frames of cutaneous leishmaniasis known in Europe, Asia and Africa.