

## Editorial

Ana Paula Coelho Penna  
Teixeira\* 

Mary Anne Fontenele Martins 

The publication of this thematic issue of the *Vigilância Sanitária em Debate: Sociedade, Ciência & Tecnologia (Visa em Debate)* journal opens the celebrations of Brazil's Sentinel Network's 18th anniversary in 2020 and its history of dedication to the dissemination of experiences and results of the work done by the network.

Setting up and maintaining a nationwide collaborative network is not an easy task. This requires strong interaction between the institutions that operate within the network, enabling the exchange of ideas, the collective production of knowledge and the sharing of information and successful experiences.

Established in 2002, Brazil's Sentinel Network has grown and consolidated itself as an active observatory of the performance and safety of regularly used health products. It has become an important reference for the Health Surveillance Notification and Investigation System (Vigipós), providing essential information for monitoring adverse events and technical complaints with products subject to health surveillance. It is an environment that favors the exchange of experiences and the improvement of work processes, using scientific evidence for health risk management.

Today, the Sentinel Network is composed of 260 partner institutions, in 23 Brazilian states and the Federal District. Public and private hospitals, both big and small, in addition to blood centers and emergency care units (UPA) make up the network of accredited services.

Considering that these institutions play an important role in the production of information to support risk management actions, this thematic issue aimed to gather research on the vast universe of the Sentinel Network and organizational units of the Brazilian National Health Surveillance Agency that operate in the complex setting of post-marketing/use surveillance of products related to human health and patient safety.

Based on a multifaceted and cross-boundary approach, this thematic issue - from Debate and Review to Papers - offers several perspectives and epistemological and methodological approaches to the areas of Vigipós, namely: Biovigilance, Cosmetovigilance, Pharmacovigilance, Hemovigilance and Technovigilance.

Also as a contribution to the production of knowledge on today's topic, we present a paper that addresses the use of cannabidiol for human health treatments.

The Experience Reports presented here are also considered timely and relevant, since the sharing of successful experiences is inherent in scientific activities and brings evidence to support changes in practices related to quality and patient safety, as well as raises awareness of risk management.

In the Brief Communication section, we present a text related to the topic of management, decentralization and coordination of the National Health Surveillance System (SNVS), with the objective of updating the scientific community about what is being done to harmonize practices within the scope of the SNVS.

In conclusion, we can affirm that this thematic issue celebrates and recognizes the efforts of those who have done and keep doing continuing education in the most different areas of knowledge within the Sentinel Network. The celebration is expanded and shared among all those who are concerned with monitoring the products subject to health surveillance and seek to protect the health of the population in their specific field of activity.

Agência Nacional de Vigilância  
Sanitária (Anvisa), Brasília, DF, Brasil

\* E-mail: [anapaula.teixeira@anvisa.gov.br](mailto:anapaula.teixeira@anvisa.gov.br)

We hope that this edition, in addition to disseminating the work of the Sentinel Network, will inspire other similar initiatives that can effectively produce evidence for the improvement of work practices and open new prospects for technical and scientific discussion on the topics of Vigipós and patient safety.

Our most sincere gratitude to all health units that integrate, participate and build the Sentinel Network, which will celebrate its 18 years of existence in 2020!

We hope you enjoy this edition!