





The 10th anniversary of the Brazilian Breast Cancer Symposium: connecting researchers and promoting science

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Conducting research in Brazil is not an easy task. Even though the number of researchers and research groups has increased exponentially in recent years in the country, barriers to the development of science are still present and, at times, scientific growth is even discouraged. In search of strategies to minimize this scenario, the Brazilian Breast Cancer Symposium (BBCS) was idealized to encourage research on breast cancer in Brazil. To this end, the event dedicates its prime hours to researchers so that they can present their data, has an evaluation committee composed of research experts to judge the papers presented, and grants prestigious awards.

The BBCS agenda is divided into two parts, a pre-congress event composed of lectures, courses, and seminars on a wide range of subjects related to breast cancer (educational part) and another part focused on the production of scientific knowledge and promotion of original research.

After a decade of existence, the BBCS has established itself as the largest event about breast cancer research in Latin America. Some data support this assertion. First, the large number of papers submitted annually (in 2021, amid the pandemic, 122 papers were submitted). Second, the quality of the papers, which can be measured through the number of publications in scientific journals. Rahal et al.¹ observed, for example, that the rate of BBCS publications was 2.5 times higher than that of the Brazilian Congress of Mastology and 4 times that of the Jornada Paulista de Mastologia, which are the largest and most renowned Mastology congresses in Brazil. The BBCS was also the scientific event that published the highest number of journals classified as A1 and A2, and with the greatest impact. Another aspect to be considered is the variety of papers. The main areas covered are pathology, basic sciences, epidemiology, and surgery. However, the Symposium attracts researchers from all areas, including radiology, systemic treatment, rehabilitation and radiotherapy, among others.

The BBCS was initially conceived by Dr. Ruffo de Freitas Júnior, who is passionate about breast cancer science, epidemiology, and treatment. He is the former president of the Brazilian Society of Mastology and has managed to attract and motivate followers. In recent years, the BBCS was held in Pirenópolis, a bucolic and picturesque small historic town located in the heart of Brazil, between Goiânia and Brasília, with good hotel options, natural wonders, waterfalls, restaurants, and wineries.

The BBCS is only possible because of the collaboration of a large network of professors, sponsors, researchers, colleagues from different areas (mastologists, clinical oncologists, pathologists, cancer surgeons, gynecologists, radiologists, plastic surgeons, physiotherapists, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and basic scientists), dozens of national and international professors, and thousands of congress participants. In 2021, the virtual version of the Symposium had approximately 1,514 people registered, from different Brazilian states and countries around the world.

In this specific issue of Mastology®, we have published the most important papers presented on the 10th anniversary of the BBCS. Thus, the BBCS has fulfilled its mission and warmly thanks all of those who believe in and collaborate with this project.

REFERENCE

1. Rahal RMSR, Nascimento S, Soares LR, Freitas-Junior R. Publication rate of abstracts on breast cancer presented at different scientific events in Brazil. *Mastology*. 2020;30:e20200048. <https://doi.org/10.29289/25945394202020200048>

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Conflict of interests: nothing to declare.