

Insight into the Brazilian Federation of Hospitals (FBH) and the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS)

Interview with Luiz Aramicy B. Pinto, representative of the IHF Full Member

Organization and position

Luiz Aramicy Bezerra Pinto has been president of the Brazilian Federation of Hospitals (FBH) since 2010. FBH is an entity that has been working for 50 years to defend the private health institutions' interests all over the country. FBH represents 4,397 establishments in 16 federation's units. The organization has historically participated in the construction of the Brazilian health system. Today, its main challenge is to act for the evolution of the private hospital sector, bringing together the Brazilian hospitals state associations and representing them before government agencies and private initiative. FBH works for qualifying health care policies and standards, qualifying hospital management and improving patient care in hospitals.



Key challenges faced by the hospital sector and achievements of FBH in Brazil

There are innumerable challenges faced by the hospital sector in Brazil, such as the lack of incentive and the high tax burden, which is one of FBH's main flags, which strives to reduce taxes and taxation. The Health Sector pays the highest percentage of taxes in the country, according to the technical studies prepared by FBH.

There is a growing market and many opportunities to expand the activities in hospitals and to invest in research, projects and improvement of care. The Brazilian Hospitals' Convention is an FBH's achievement that involves all the sector's leadership and the main hospital managers to jointly build strategic alliances for hospitals' evolution.

FBH created, in partnership with National Health Agency (ANS), its Qualification Department in order to prepare Brazilian hospitals for the advances that the National Health Agency has been proposing to improve the delivery of services to the customers.

Key challenges in healthcare at the international level

Health systems and models worldwide go through a period of important and necessary transformations, brought about by the impact of new technologies, which have led to changes in people's lifestyles; demographic changes, such as the rapid aging of the population; and epidemiological, such as outbreaks of diseases caused by insects, for example. The impacts and changes in this area are at the center of a great social and economic debate, since the health sector is complex and involves discussions that have a direct impact on people's lives and the country's economy.

Representing the health of Brazil and the South American countries to IHF

We are proud to be an IHF Board member again. This extends our responsibility to represent not only Brazilian's health, but also our neighboring South American nations. Thus, our expectation is to put our expertise at IHF's disposal, as well as to bring to Brazil debates about what's best in hospital management world-wide.

Evolution of IHF in the next five years

We hope that IHF's activity will continue to contribute to the qualification of hospital services worldwide, highlighting the most important guidelines and agendas for strengthening the sector, and offering opportunities for cultural exchanges and exchanges of experience among technicians from different parts of the world.

Structure of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS)

The Ministry of Health is the national manager of SUS, who formulates, regulates, supervises, monitors and evaluates policies and actions, in articulation with the National Health Council. There is a Health State Secretariat (SES) in each unit of the Federation, which participates in the formulation of health policies and actions, and, in each Brazilian municipality, there is a Municipal Health Secretariat (SMS), which plans, organizes, controls, evaluates and executes health actions and services in articulation with the municipal council and state sphere.

The Unified Health System (SUS) is one of the largest and most complex public health systems in the world, ranging from Basic Care to High Complexity, guaranteeing universal and free access to approximately 210 million Brazilians. With its creation, SUS provides access to the public health system without discrimination. Comprehensive health care, not just care, has become a right for all Brazilians, from gestation and for life, focusing on health with quality of life, aiming at prevention and health promotion.

The management of actions and health services must be joint and participatory between the three Brazilian Federation's entities - Union, states and municipalities - and each entity has its co-responsibilities determined by the Federal Constitution. The SUS network encompasses basic care, medium and high complexity, urgent and emergency services, hospital care, actions and services of epidemiological, sanitary and environmental surveillance and pharmaceutical assistance.

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The entire system is based on the organizational principles of Regionalization and Hierarchization, where services must be organized at increasing levels of complexity, circumscribed to a specific geographic area, planned from epidemiological criteria; in Decentralization that allows redistributing power and responsibility among the three levels of government; and in Popular Participation, where the society participates through Councils and Health Conferences.

The Federal Constitution of 1988 determinates that SUS should be financed by the three spheres of government, generating the revenue necessary to defray public health services and actions expenses. The financial investment percentage is defined by law, where municipalities and the Federal District must apply a minimum of 15% of the tax collection on actions and public health services and the states 12%.



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FBH's mission and priorities

The Brazilian Hospitals Federation is an associative, non-profit organization that, for more than 50 years, represents the Brazilian hospital sector. Board Member of Health of the National Agency of Supplementary Health (ANS), constant presence at the National Sanitary Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) and Ministry of Health, FBH participates in the sector's main decisions, struggling for better working conditions for the for their members and for the quality services offered by the Brazilian private health network.



Its main activities are:

- Represent the federates before government agencies and private initiative, which, in any way, may influence hospital care.
- Act as a procedural substitute for its members in judicial or administrative proceedings.
- Improve health services efficiency through integration between public and private sectors.
- Promote conventions, conferences, congresses, courses, reports and conferences on matters of interest to hospitals.

FBH created the Qualification Program, which consists in the establishment of qualification attributes relevant to the improvement of the quality of care offered by the providers of supplementary health services.

Currently, some of the Federation's priorities include the struggle to mitigate the financial crisis that affects a significant portion of private hospitals agreed to SUS, and the establishment of an integrated governance model to make the health system more efficient and effective, improve the quality of health care, and increase health service providers' representativeness at the Ministry of Health councils, technical boards, commissions and working groups.

FBH's support role to hospitals

We work to motivate hospitals to effectively participate in the positive transformations and evolution that FBH and its associates live nowadays. We know that the challenges are big, but when we face them together as an essential category that we are for the society and for the country, we go further. Hospital sector leaders know that the Brazilian Hospitals Federation supports them to increase their achievements and to reap the best results.