

FOREWORD

While the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health is generally limited in its program focus to the State of Texas since it is an integral part of The University of Texas System, the problems of mental illness and the emergence of exciting new experiments in community mental health know no geographic boundaries. Occasionally, the Foundation sponsors activities that reach far beyond state boundaries although the primary focus of sponsorship must still remain upon the mental health of Texas citizens.

Beginning in 1955 with its sponsorship of the Third Interamerican Congress of Psychology in Austin, the Hogg Foundation has continued to play an important role in the study of socio-cultural factors underlying personality development and mental health within the Americas. A major portion of citizens in Texas are Spanish-speaking people of Mexican origin. Greater insight into the meaning of health and sickness among peoples of different ethnic origin can best be gained by intensive comparative studies that cut across the usual boundaries in search of the best examples of new programs, perspectives, and discoveries in mental health and the related behavioral sciences.

When Luiz Natalicio, editor of the *Revista*, approached us with the idea of a special issue dealing with mental health in the Americas, we could immediately see the great value of such a publication, especially with Ira Iscoe as the guest editor. Dr. Iscoe has played a major role in the development of the vigorous new field of community mental health and has an international point of view that is quite compatible both with the local objectives of the Hogg Foundation and with the hemispheric goals of the Interamerican Society of Psychology. While the Foundation's contribution to this special issue has been relatively minor, we are nevertheless proud to be identified with these excellent and timely contributions of leading mental health specialists throughout North and South America under the skillful editorship of Drs. Iscoe and Natalicio.

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