

# Preface

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**W**e are very pleased to be able to present this thematic issue of *Hygiea Internationalis* and to welcome guest editor Professor Martin Dinges from the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart, to introduce the selected articles. This issue deals with the provision of and access to health care in different historical contexts and is based on selected contributions to a conference on “Health and Health Care between Self-Help, Intermediary Organizations and Formal Poor Relief (1500–2005)” which took place in Braga Portugal in July, 2004. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Professor Dinges and the authors contributing to this interesting volume.

The next two special issues of the journal (which are planned to be released during spring 2007) will contain articles on policy and cultural history of public health respectively, largely based on selected conference papers. Our intention is to publish *Hygiea Internationalis* more regularly in the future, producing at least two volumes each year. To make this possible we are to a large extent dependent on the contributions from our readers. Thus we invite you to submit articles, dealing with the history of public health, for coming issues of *Hygiea Internationalis*.