

An ancillary conclusion for a communitarian research project.

Carlos Araya.¹

Affiliations: ¹Facultad de Odontología, Universidad de Concepción, Chile.

Corresponding author: Carlos Araya. Roosevelt 1550. Concepción, Chile. Phone: (56-41) 2204232. E-mail: carlaray@udec.cl

The FONIS SA14ID0162 project has been completed and we are proud of the achievements and the experience gained. Participating children and parents, visited in their preschools and communities, are also happy. But I do not want to comment on the numbers and *p*-values of this research project, I want to refer to the act of research and the support that should be given to work performed in communities.

To investigate, the act of searching the truth, is an intrinsically noble act. In order to complete it successfully one must not forget the series of restrictions imposed daily by the Research Committees, neglecting the advice of international organizations in this regard.¹ I do not deny the essential role of bioethical principles in research performed on human beings, but this should not stop the search for evidence for better health care.²

On the other hand, work in communities is an account of citizen participation in the construction of everything, including their health. We know the community, we locate their neighborhoods, their health centers, some of their organizations and even some of their activities. But, do we recognize the real expression of their aspirations and desires? Do we know what are the relationships and links that they themselves seek and with difficulty they create? Do we have the capabilities to help strengthen and boost their development?

I start from the idea that we intend to do it, that we are convinced that the health generator is the community and its environment, and that they have, in health, a natural right to develop jointly with public health organizations. Everything is immersed here: work, food, education, recreation, neighborhoods and their green areas. Their whole world of life, and their relations with democracy and power.³

My acknowledgements to the institutions that believed and supported the FONIS project, the communities that participated with great patience, but I would also like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to be able to take up the theme of community participation as a lever for the democratization of health.

Conflict of interests: None.

Acknowledgements: None.

Cite as: Araya C. An ancillary conclusion for a communitarian research project. *J Oral Res* 2017; 6(10):262.
[doi:10.17126/joralres.2017.080](https://doi.org/10.17126/joralres.2017.080)

REFERENCES.

1. Tran N, Langlois EV, Reveiz L, Varallyay I, Elias V, Mancuso A, Becerra-Posada F, Ghaffar A. Embedding research to improve program implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 2017;41:e75.
2. Araya C. Why conduct research on primary care? *J Oral Res*. 2015;4(4):237–8.
3. Anigstein MS. Participación Comunitaria en Salud: Reflexiones sobre las posibilidades de democratización del sector. *Rev MAD*. 2008;19:77–88.