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Jair Bolsonaro's acts,<sup>2</sup> as scientists, we should be intellectually honest and use available data. That said, there is not enough evidence to support that Bolsonaro's attitudes to COVID-19 affected the so-called disaster because the relative number of cases and deaths in the country were very similar to those observed in high-income countries (eg, Italy and the USA).<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, economic issues in Brazil such as those cited in the Editorial could not be analysed separately from the pandemic itself and the ongoing war in Europe. Without considering these factors, we risk being severely biased in our political analysis.

What concerns us the most, however, is to consider Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva a solution to Brazil's problems or, even worse, a facilitator of new beginnings for Brazil. How can Lula represent a new beginning for Brazil when several corruption scandals during his previous eight-year term jeopardised national progress?

Brazilians must stop waiting for a saviour from right-wing or left-wing politicians. The solution to Brazil's political problems involves understanding that only the internal search for honesty in all aspects of citizenship will distance us from corrupt political leaders and dictators, and this will allow for a real new beginning.

We declare no competing interests.

\*Leonardo A Miana, Larissa L Daroda  
leonardomiana@gmail.com

Faculdade de Medicina Hospital das Clínicas, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo 05403-000, Brazil (LAM); Department of Plastic Surgery, School of Medicine, Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Juiz de Fora, Brazil (LLD)

- 1 The Lancet. New beginnings for Latin America? *Lancet* 2022; **400**: 707.
- 2 Miana LA, Dal Ben M. A Ciência tem que prevalecer na avaliação da Cloroquina contra o novo Coronavírus. 2020. <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/eqilibrioesaude/2020/04/a-ciencia-tem-que-prevalecer-na-avaliacao-da-cloroquina-contra-o-novo-coronavirus.shtml> (accessed Sept 6, 2022).
- 3 Worldometers. COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> (accessed Sept 6, 2022).

## Latin America needs evidence-supported health-care policies

Speaking from Mexican experience, we would like to add a layer of analysis to the Editorial<sup>1</sup> about the expectations of progressive social campaigns in Latin America. We believe political campaign pledges should be backed up by a clear plan for health system reform.

During his campaign, the current Mexican president was at the forefront of progressive left-wing politics. Stemming from an agenda focused on improving the lives of low-income groups, Andrés Manuel López Obrador promised to make universal health care a reality. However, 4 years later, health outcomes could hardly be further from promise. In fact, scarce analysis<sup>2</sup> and faltering implementation<sup>3</sup> show worrisome results. The latest data from the Mexican Government<sup>4</sup> show a 74% increase in the number of people without access to health care and a 59% increase in the proportion of families from the lowest quintile with catastrophic health expenditure; it also shows that vaccine coverage for children younger than 1 year is only 20%. Other countries in Latin America should keep this Mexican experience in mind.

We agree with the Editors<sup>1</sup> that there have been promising responses from Colombia and Chile, and we agree that there have been deleterious health results in Brazil. The social demands that are raised are causes that we support, but these are instrumental objectives that should be subject to the primary objective of improving welfare and health.

We advocate for thorough information on evidence-supported health policies that will allow people to make better voting decisions, to improve health-care circumstances in Latin America.

We declare no competing interests.

\*Daniel Bernal-Serrano,  
Héctor Arreola-Ornelas  
dbernal@tec.mx

Health Policy Unit, Institute for Obesity Research (HA-O) and Iniciativa de Política Pública y Salud, Escuela de Gobierno y Transformación Pública (DB-S), Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Mexico City 03700, Mexico

- 1 The Lancet. New beginnings for Latin America? *Lancet* 2022; **400**: 707.
- 2 Reich MR. Restructuring health reform, Mexican style. *Health Syst Reform* 2020; **6**: 1–11.
- 3 Meneses Navarro S, Pelcastre-Villafuerte BE, Becerril-Montekio V, Serván-Mori E. Overcoming the health systems' segmentation to achieve universal health coverage in Mexico. *Int J Health Plann Manage* 2022; published online July 5. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpm.3538>.
- 4 Secretaría de Salud. Nota en lenguaje ciudadano—análisis de los indicadores del programa sectorial de salud (PSS) 2020-2024. 2022. [https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/734474/NotaLenguajeCiudadano\\_2doTrim2022.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/734474/NotaLenguajeCiudadano_2doTrim2022.pdf) (accessed Sept 13, 2022).

### Department of Error

Messacar K, Baker RE, Park SW, Nguyen-Tran H, Cataldi JR, Grenfell B. Preparing for uncertainty: endemic paediatric viral illnesses after COVID-19 pandemic disruption. *Lancet* 2022; **400**: 1663—In this Comment, the words “winter in” have been added in the second sentence of the first paragraph and the word “to” added to the penultimate sentence of the fourth paragraph. This correction has been made to the online version as of July 18, 2022.

Romanello M, Di Napoli C, Drummond P, et al. The 2022 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: health at the mercy of fossil fuels. *Lancet* 2022; **400**: 1619–54—In this Countdown, the text was missing underneath the subheading Indicator 4.1.2. This correction has been made to the online version as of Nov 3, 2022, and the printed version is correct.