

Unbounded science

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This professional and life experience report happened to me 18 months ago, when I woke up with the fixed idea of a new challenge, which was applying for a postdoctoral fellowship and living abroad, far away from all I was surrounded by, such as family, home, university and friends. The project began from choosing a supervisor, a country, a city, a university and a line of research that would encompass a change, something that I could put into practice and apply when I came back to Brazil. With the acceptance of a supervisor and being aware of which university I would have the chance to work in, I started my search for a postdoctoral fellowship abroad. My choice fell on a program called '*Ciências sem Fronteiras*' (Borderless Sciences, literally translated), third phase, with a few vacancies for odontology and with results expected for May 2015. My dream came true and I got the sought-after vacancy. On September 1st, 2015, I embarked on my journey to the Netherlands, to the city of Groningen, where the University of Groningen and the University Medical Center Groningen are located. Groningen is at the North of the country and its population is 190,000 inhabitants, mainly young people, and bicycles are the main means of transportation. The University of Groningen is a centenary one, and its ranked as one of the 100 best universities in Europe. Perhaps it would all seem extremely easy to a youngster, but not to me. At the age of 53, I decided to face the challenge, that is, doing research, studying and sharing knowledge at a new university. Learning *Dutch* would be impossible. Then I went for English, a language that they could understand and I could communicate. And this is how it was, since English was the predominant language at the post-graduation. The first few weeks at a research laboratory, which was unknown to me, were not easy. However, little by little, I started winning the confidence of those who worked there, as well as their respect, because, undoubtedly, I was the

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oldest one among many young people. Taking part in graduation clinical activities in the Endodontics field was another great lesson because, besides the interaction with youngsters, I had the opportunity of sharing the endodontics that I had learned in my country. Over the 12 months spent there I learned how to live with the highest technology present in many laboratories, at a modern and extremely organized university. In addition, the opportunity of living in an ecofriendly city, where I could move around by bicycle, where the trash is recycled in all its forms and respect towards the environment is a law. Back to Brazil, I have the commitment of repaying the Odontology Post-Graduation Program of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul the experience I gained, as well as contributing to its internationalization. It was 365 days lived to the fullest, for every single day was a new experience. I express in this text my gratitude towards BRAZIL, for giving me the chance of learning and reflecting so much. Thank you very much CIÊNCIAS SEM FRONTEIRAS!

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Invited editor