

**SPEECH OF DJANE BAÍA, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 2015 STUDENTS,
AT THE CLOSURE OF XX SL&D.**

Itacuruçá, 19 de setembro de 2015

"I was born in the Amazon, where I also grew up. Working in this region, I am interested in a prevalent public health problem: malaria. Therefore, at this moment of closure of discussions on progress in malaria research in various regions of Brazil I would like to compare the **Laveran & Deane Seminar** to an important and imposing symbol of the Amazon: the **Samauma** tree.

The **Samauma** is a large tree of the family of bombacacees, it reaches between 60 and 70 meters high with a leafy canopy. It is majestic and has great prominence in the forest wilderness. It is considered the tree of life, the queen of the forest and a symbol of immortality, union, approach, harmony... It is used for communication between people... it represents protection and care, as under their fronds a diverse ecosystem is found. The **Samauma**, as well as the **Laveran & Deane Seminar**, have prominent nobility and greatness: they welcome, protect, communicate and teach us.

Thank you Professors Cláudio and Fátima, and also Claudia, for keeping this great **Samauma**. We hope that it continues to live for many years, always protecting us, malaria students, as we are still so rare.

I thank my friends for the friendship built here, hoping that we can meet again in the future, not only as collaborators, but also as partners, remembering this professional environment and strengthening friendships that this magnificent event provided us with...

Finally, I would repeat to you all the words of the Spanish poet Antonio Machado: "Walker, there is no path, the way is made by walking". Let's, then, take the walk, in order to conduct research of major impact on malaria. "