



## Letter to the editor

### Scientific writing in Undergraduate Medicine: paths for the evolution of science and improvements in health

A escrita científica na graduação de medicina: caminhos para a evolução da ciência e melhorias na saúde

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#### Dear Editor,

Scientific writing, in its concept, is defined as an elaboration of information related to the construction of knowledge through analysis in defense of points of view with the purpose of innovation.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, innovation is extremely important in the medical field, since the more we innovate positively, the more society becomes hopeful for improvements in the treatment of diseases and the discovery of new ways out of diseases that still have no cure. Thus, within medical school, it is necessary that students are stimulated to constantly seek medical updates based on scientific writing and the creation of scientific content through articles well evaluated by the international community.

In this context, assessing the needs of medical students in relation to what can be done to strengthen the ties between them and scientific writing is a suggestion of great value for medical and academic institutions. In a survey conducted in Saudi Arabia, a questionnaire was given to final-year medical students at King Saud University in Riyadh,<sup>2</sup> Saudi capital. From it, it became possible to understand some difficulties that may not be only local, reaching other states or countries. In this survey, 84.7% (143/169) reported a lack of mentors for scientific research and articles. In addition, 88.8% (151/170) reported a lack of training courses within the scientific.<sup>2</sup> In this way, it is important to reflect on the need for more effective support from

medical schools, with, for example, more scientific workshops that lead undergraduate students in this area.

It is essential to stimulate scientific writing in medical schools, because even if the students' experience in doing research does not lead them to a work path in which they will work with this within academic medicine, it will certainly help them in the critical evaluation of the medical literature and in the production of articles that bring us knowledge and generate value to society.<sup>3</sup>

The acquisition of scientific writing skills can help the student to choose the type of study that best fits his needs, since a case report can be the solution for such a purpose where a literature review would not be the most viable, for example. Consequently, the quality of the published papers would increase and scientific evidence would be produced with more quality and greater academic participation.

#### References

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