Editorial. Dossier: Challenges and Alternatives of Latin American Dental

Education*

Editorial. Dossier: Desafíos y alternativas de la educación odontológica latinoamericana

Editorial. Dossier: Desafios e alternativas da educação odontológica Latino-Americana

NIDIA ROA GAMBOA

Universidad Americana de Managua. Managua, Nicaragua. nidia.roa@uam.edu.ni; https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9346-8686

GLORIA MARTÍNEZ SANDOVAL

Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. San Nicolás De Los Garza, Nuevo León, México. gloriamzambrano@hotmail.com; https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5167-2323

MARÍA ISABEL PARDO SILVA

Universidad El Bosque. Bogotá, Colombia. <u>pardomaria@unbosque.edu.co</u>; <u>https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5239-6567</u>

SANDRA CECILIA DELGADO TRONCOSO

Práctica independiente. Medellín, Colombia. sandelga15@gmail.com; https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8515-5199

JORGE ENRIQUE DELGADO TRONCOSO

University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States. jed41@pitt.edu.

https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1127-9516

*Editorial

Correspondence:

nidia.roa@uam.edu.ni;

gloriamzambrano@hotmail.com;

pardomaria@unbosque.edu.co; sandelga15@gmail.com; jed41@pitt.edu

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ABSTRACT

Universitas Odontologica presents its second dossier of 2020 on, "Challenges and Alternatives of

Latin American Dental Education," which is the result of a call for manuscript released among

different professional and academic networks throughout the region. The dossier includes six

articles mainly on use of teaching-and-learning technologies and the impact of the COVID-19

pandemic on dental education, as well as academic repetition and learning factors.

Keywords

COVID-19; dental education; dentistry; educational technology; learning; pandemic; teaching;

thematic dossiers

RESUMEN

Universitas Odontologica presenta su Segundo dossier de 2020 sobre "Desafíos y alternativas de

la educación odontológica latinoamericana", el cual es el resultado de una convocatoria distribuida

entre diferentes redes académicas y profesionales a lo largo de la región. El dossier incluye seis

artículos principalmente sobre el uso de tecnologías de enseñanza-aprendizaje y el impacto de la

pandemia por el COVID-19 en la enseñanza odontológica, así como la repitencia académica y los

factores de aprendizaje.

Palabras clave

aprendizaje; COVID-19; dossiers temáticos; educación odontológica; enseñanza; odontología;

pandemia; tecnología educativa

RESUMO

Universitas Odontologica apresenta seu segundo dossiê de 2020 sobre "Desafios e alternativas da

educação odontológica latino-americana", resultado de uma convocatória distribuída entre as

diferentes redes acadêmicas e profissionais da região. O dossiê inclui seis artigos principalmente

sobre o uso de tecnologias de ensino-aprendizagem e o impacto da pandemia COVID-19 na educação odontológica, bem como sobre a repetência acadêmica e fatores de aprendizagem.

Palavras-chave

aprendizagem; COVID-19; dossiês temáticos; educação odontológica; ensino; odontologia; pandemia; tecnologia educativa

The world is changing by leaps and bounds. Many advances in terms of techniques, technologies, and materials were unimaginable two decades ago. Such advances are revolutionizing the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of oral diseases, and we are increasingly learning more about the relationships between oral health and general health. However, the challenges in terms of social conditions, equity, and access, coverage, and quality of care of health systems, including oral health, remain problematic in Iberic-America and the world. These challenges impact the training of general dentists, specialists, and support staff. Also, beyond clinical practice, the areas in which dentists have professional careers have expanded to the political, social, legal, educational, scientific, and administrative fields, which also generate training imperatives. Moreover, globalization has favored a greater mobility of professionals between countries, which requires dental training to look beyond national contexts.

Therefore, *Universitas Odontologica* released the call for manuscripts for its 19th thematic dossier on, Challenges and Alternatives of Latin-American Dental Education. Dental education is a broad theme, thus manuscripts would be accepted in areas such as: 1) Legal contexts and public policies

that influence the education of the oral health personnel; 2) quality assurance, accreditation, and evaluation of dental training programs and institutions; 3) curricular and pedagogical models and training experiences (teaching, learning, and evaluation) in the classroom and other learning environments; 4) use of technologies; 5) training trends for general dentists, specialists and support staff; 6) different areas of professional development of dental staff; and, 7) internationalization of the programs and mobility of students and scholars. Research that uses different methodologies, case studies (classroom, institution, or country), and literature reviews were accepted as long as they were original and made contributions to new knowledge.

Universitas Odontologica received eight manuscripts of which six were included in this dossier. Although the call was broad, the topics focused on the use of teaching-and-learning technologies and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on dental education, as well as academic repetition and learning factors. The articles come from researchers from Peru, Mexico, and Colombia. We hope that the studies included here are to your liking and the door is open to call for a new dossier covering the areas that were not covered on this time on education in Latin American dentistry.

Nidia Roa Gamboa

Universidad Americana de Managua. Managua, Nicaragua

Guest editor

Gloria Martínez Sandoval

Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. San Nicolás De Los Garza, Nuevo León, México

Guest editor

María Isabel Pardo Silva

Universidad El Bosque. Bogotá, Colombia

Guest editor

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