

Editorial

Hospital Pharmacy in South America: strengthening to advance

Farmácia Hospitalar na América do Sul: fortalecer para avançar

Simone Pozza MAHMUD
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The search for strengthening Hospital Pharmacy in Latin America led the pharmacists who gathered in 2008 in Valencia, Spain, during the 1st Latin American Hospital Pharmacy Encounter, to propose uniting the Scientific Societies of South American countries with the common objective of developing and strengthening Hospital Pharmacy in the region. The idea was consolidated and gave rise to the South American Coordinating Office for the Development of Hospital Pharmacy (*Coordinadora Sudamericana para el Desarrollo de la Farmacia Hospitalaria*, COSUDEFH), which now brings together Hospital Pharmacy Scientific Societies from several countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay¹.

This initiative represented both a great opportunity and major challenges for the Scientific Societies of the member countries. Regardless of the geographical dimensions and socioeconomic development of each country, the main focus is to establish means of how to work together in order to ease continued growth of Hospital Pharmacy in South America.

Evidently, each country has different needs and expectations. However, common challenges such as ensuring safety in management of medications and patients, the quality of services offered, effectiveness and access to medications are axes that bring us closer together. The pharmacist's role in patient care provided to the patients and their commitment to the desired clinical outcomes imposes the need for these professionals to master these themes.

In hospital pharmacies and other health services, provision of products and services should be understood as a means. The utmost purpose of exercising their praxis has its result based on assistance provided to the patients, with the main objective of contributing to the health care process².

To such end, one of the COSUDEFH goals is to understand how Latin American hospital pharmacies are organized. Thus, a paper already conducted but not yet published was the mapping developed through the article "*Professional Practice Model in Hospital Pharmacy*".

The document presents the result of a collective process construction of the national Hospital Pharmacy organizations that are part of COSUDEFH and was aimed at improving patient safety. It arose from the need of promoting Hospital Pharmacy in South American countries, establishing a desirable minimum standard for a safe and good quality execution of Hospital Pharmacy activities both for outpatient and hospitalized patients. The expectation is that, based on this consensus, hospital-based pharmacists may come to develop new actions grounded on common guidelines, easing the exchange of experiences.

Another relevant action was the publication of the COSUDEFH Declaration-2020/2021 Pandemic. This document was intended to alert to the lack of essential medications and materials in South America, directed both to the pharmaceutical industry and to Governmental and Non-Governmental Entities. The Declaration called for an intervention into a better accessibility to critical medications in an egalitarian way for South American countries apart from recognize the invaluable role played by all health professionals during this pandemic in each of these countries. It highlighted the performance of hospital pharmacists who, based on uncertainties, had to lead administrative, clinical and care processes that contributed to pave the way to overcome a global epidemic.

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Rua Vergueiro, 1855 - 12º andar
Vila Mariana - São Paulo - SP, Brazil
CEP 04101-000 - Tel./Fax: (11) 5083-4297
atendimento@sbrafh.org.br/www.sbrafh.org.br



As a member of COSUDEFH and currently holding its presidency, SBRAFH is committed to supporting actions for the promotion of a strengthened and egalitarian Latin American Hospital Pharmacy. Thus, to expand and stimulate scientific exchange, the journal *Revista Brasileira de Farmácia Hospitalar e Serviços de Saúde* (RBFHSS) becomes the official one from COSUDEFH, bringing together in its articles the collaboration of colleagues from all over Latin America and so expanding the eforces in favor of good quality scientific production in the Hospital Pharmacy area.

RBFHSS was launched in 2010 with the intention of fostering scientific communication and the value of evidence-based practices. In June 2020, it had already published nearly 250 articles in 34 access-free and online volumes and, since 2018, all the articles started to be published also in English. In 2019, the RBFHSS electronic article submission system was renewed, changing into a more modern, agile and practical format, allowing the improvement of electronic management of the editorial process and for a contribution with optimizing communication³.

In this way, we invite Latin American colleagues to join us and collaborate with the promotion of a qualified and increasingly integrated pharmaceutical assistance, finding in RBFHSS a space for the dissemination of scientific knowledge from each member country.

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Simone Dalla Pozza Mahmud is a pharmacist and supplies coordinator of the Porto Alegre Clinical Hospital, she was Financial Director (2001-2002) and Vice-president (2012-2013) of SBRAFH; she is also the President of *Coordinadora Sudamericana para el Desarrollo de la Farmacia Hospitalaria* (COSUDEFH)

