

Editorial

Sandra Josefina Ferraz Ellero Grisi^a

Grisi SJFE. Editorial. Autopsy Case Rep [Internet]. 2011;1(3):1. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4322/acr.2011.001>

The study of pathology plays a fundamental role in the training and continuing education of physicians, because it is the area of knowledge concerned with the morphology of organs and tissues, identifying relationships between structure and function, encompassing the mechanism of disease. Pathology is the principal link between basic science and clinical medicine, promoting accurate, effective practices in patient care.

Medical education has been under review in terms of the methods adopted in the teaching-learning process, as well as in terms of the content required to properly train new physicians. This review was motivated by the fact that it is currently impossible to transmit the full knowledge of every area of medicine to every medical student. The proposed changes in the curricula of medical schools has triggered disputes among the various interests, all of whom are vying for the time of medical students. Therefore, the number of course hours has been reduced in certain areas.

The methods of instruction employed in medical schools can be disincentives to learning, leading to disinterest and to a learning deficit. The key question is whether, during the learning process, we can encourage medical students to develop the habit of establishing connections between theory and practice, thereby preparing them to deal with problematic situations.

In view of the scenario outlined above, there is a real need for scientific publications that present content in an integrated manner. Such publications can further the training of medical students, as

well as the continuing education of clinicians, surgeons, and pathologists. Within this context, the publication ***Autopsy and Case Reports*** was conceptualized as a tool for promoting the training and continuing education of physicians, as well as for aiding researchers. The Journal presents reports of autopsies conducted for teaching purposes, together with reports of cases in which there are correlations among clinical, pathological, and imaging data, with the objective of developing clinical reasoning abilities, analyzing diagnostic methods, and critically reviewing the treatment of diseases. ***Autopsy and Case Reports*** is the official publication of the University of São Paulo University Hospital, and its mission is in accordance with that of the Hospital, which is committed to instruction, research, and community outreach.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Athanzio DA, Neves FBCS, Bôaventura CS, Athanzio PRF. O ensino de Patologia nas escolas médicas está em crise? Uma revisão sobre a experiência internacional. *Rev Bras Educ Med.* 2009;33(1):49-54. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0100-55022009000100007>
2. Martins MA. Ensino médico [editorial]. *Rev Assoc Med Bras.* 2006;52(5):281-91. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-42302006000500002>
3. Melo-Júnior MR, Araújo-Filho J LS, Patua VJRM, Machado MCFP, Pontes-Filho NT. Integrando o ensino da patologia às novas competências educacionais. *Ciênc Cogn.* 2007;12:110-4.

^a Superintendent of the Hospital Universitário - Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo/SP, Brazil.

