

# Letter to the editor

Carta ao editor

**Dr. Inácio de Barros Melo Neto<sup>1</sup>**

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In 2020, the world was faced with one of the biggest challenges of the last century. Even with the announcement at the end of 2019 of the detection of a new type of coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, in Wuhan, China, it was not possible to imagine the magnitude of the battle that was to come at the personal, social, and institutional levels. This challenging period presented many uncertainties, but we always kept our eyes on the horizon without forgetting our objectives and values. It is through this approach that we are overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this period, humanity found itself fragile, exposed, and vulnerable. Our battle became against an invisible enemy who invaded our homes, separated us from our families, and caused immeasurable pain and losses. In this scenario, human matter became more than just a hostage to the disease; it became the main weapon against the virus. At this moment, the world witnessed the incomparable importance of healthcare workers, including physicians, nurses, physical therapists, and students. Fear and insecurity tested our resilience, articulation, and determination, necessary to remain firm in the mission of training competent physicians committed to society.

Faced with the challenges, the Faculdade de Medicina de Olinda did not abandon its commitment to training excellent physicians. At the time, the academic internship of the first FMO class was be-

ginning, so we had a duty to fulfill towards society. With attention to legal provisions and a commitment to protecting our employees and students, even in times of great scarcity, we have come together to donate personal protective equipment to our partner health services and provide all the necessary materials for the safety of our students. The pandemic created a scenario where the entire healthcare workforce was needed, and everyone needed to contribute. We began using a high-quality platform designed to facilitate the continuity of academic activities in accordance with state and federal regulations that prohibited face-to-face meetings. This period required adaptation and much learning, in which students, teachers, and technical and administrative staff came together to continue the excellent work that we have always developed together.

With this volume of the journal *Anais da Faculdade de Medicina de Olinda*, we give yet another demonstration of our commitment to disclosing knowledge produced by our professors and students, as well as scientists from other institutions, reaffirming that cooperation between researchers and the disclosure of science has been the most effective weapon in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic until now. Our institution once again fulfills its role in stimulating innovative projects that contribute to medical training, consolidating the pillars of teaching, research, and extension.

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