

Letter to the editor

Carta ao editor

Dr. Inácio de Barros Melo Neto¹

The year 2020 ended as the most challenging for humanity and the most unique for science. Millions of lives were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, and the number reached hundreds of thousands in Brazil. Even the most optimistic people were unable to predict how the epidemic that began in 2019 would unfold; moreover, we thought it would take a long time to reach the West due to its geographical distance, in terms of deaths, economic impact, and extreme levels of exhaustion of healthcare teams globally. The world agonized, and the economy stopped, but humanity reacted. Medicine was challenged to face an unprecedented and open debate. Due to the disclosure of information via social media with instant opinions, the debate surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has reached the most distant corners.

With humanity put to the test, the reaction came through science, with the rapid and unprecedented development in the history of vaccines, which were created in traditional and innovative ways, using genetic engineering that was never previously used. It was already announced that besides the challenge of producing an effective vaccine, its access to everyone worldwide needed to be ensured.

In this sense, the Faculdade de Medicina de Olinda, through its students and teachers, deepened its knowledge and practices and disclosed them to society using various initiatives. Some of them are recorded in this issue of the Annals of the Faculdade de Medicina de Olinda, with the work learned during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

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