



Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editor,

It is with great pleasure that we present the volume 12 of the Journal Anais da Faculdade de medicina de Olinda (AFMO). This volume is very important because it celebrates the 10th anniversary of the institution, evoking memories of all the challenges faced, the courage to confront them, and the joy of sharing numerous achievements.

This year, we also celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Institutional Development Program for Scientific Initiation (PRODIIC), which promotes knowledge production and a solid scientific foundation for our students. To commemorate this milestone, we had the opportunity to host the Scientific Director of the Foundation for Research Support of the State of Pernambuco, Professor Dr. Helen Jamil Khoury, who reflected with us on "Science and Development: the Case of Pernambuco." It is noteworthy that in just five years, the number of submitted articles increased from 8 in 2019 to 63 in 2024, representing an increase of approximately 80%. This reinforces the hypothesis that we are on the right path by investing in the scientific production of our institution and supporting our researchers and students.

Moreover, our journal has adopted new technologies and provided training and tools to assist the reviewers in the analysis of the submitted articles; thus, streamlining the editorial process. The first meeting of AFMO reviewers was held and fostered the integration, training, and discussion among those responsible for maintaining publication quality: the editorial board and reviewers. The new cover of the journal was also presented along with preparations for the upcoming year.

We must emphasize that internationalization is a key focus in scientific production, and proficiency in another language, particularly English, is essential. In this sense, the AFMO continues its bilingual trajectory. To enhance this component, it is important to highlight the role of the FMO Global Office, which certified the first students participating in in-person English courses; coordinated the English Olympiads during vacation and awarded students, the faculty, and staff; and launched the FMO Global Ambassadors project to certify students with excellence in English proficiency. These initiatives strengthen the crucial pillar of internationalization for knowledge production.

As a grand finale for such a special year, we held the 3rd International Health Congress of the Faculty of Medicine (III CISFMO) as part of an internationalization process and featured two international guests: Professor Dr. Antônio Coca (Spain) and Professor Dr. Joaquim Spinoza (United States of America). With over 500 registrants participating in conferences, panels, and mini-courses, we set a record with more than 140 scientific studies submitted. Additionally, we conducted the first FMO Health Innovation - StartupMed Challenge, which engaged over a hundred students in a competition to provide solutions to real problems faced by managers in the Unified Health System. The III CISFMO also hosted the 1st International Workshop on Down Syndrome, which invited researchers,

specialists, non-governmental organizations, and students of the FMO to provide suggestions and insights for developing the research agenda of the Maria Alcoforado de Barros Melo Institute (Maria Institute).

This demonstrates the significant actions taken by the FMO to fulfill its mission of excellence in education. Apart from distinguishing itself nationally, the institution is making substantial strides toward consolidating its presence internationally while fostering a critical and humanistic perspective among its students — an expansive worldview that creates a conducive environment to develop solutions for local problems with a global outlook.