

Multi-institutional research

Pesquisas muti-institucionais

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One of the key aspects of social groups is the establishment of associations by creating partnerships to pursue various common social, financial, defense and sporting objectives, among others.

Likewise, in the scientific and academic community, partnerships are essential to add knowledge and experience of different groups and institutions for the good of collective interest.

In most developed countries, multicentric investigations congregating universities, hospitals, government and private entities are common practice. Such type of cooperation has barely been implemented in our country.

In practice, it is very strange to watch discussions on why powerful, experienced and consolidated groups and institutions – which have so much to contribute in terms of knowledge – do not publish their research results. The following arguments, some of them quite strong and coherent, have been put forward to justify it: lack of training and capacity for organizing their material, the difficulty in writing papers in compliance with academic guidelines and, most of all, lack of time due to constant daily work overload.

However, such difficulties and other intrinsic problems in the uni- or multicentric research activities and in the publication of their results can be overcome by establishing partnerships between groups/institutions/professionals involved in the production of high quality scientific material, with properly organized archives, and other researchers with greater experience and knowledge in the design and development of scientific work. As an example, the gathering of different case studies, many times approaching rare diseases, transforms simple case reports into original articles by increasing the number of cases, allowing the authors to draw more grounded conclusions.

The unpleasant surprises resulting from some colleagues' lack of interest and refusal to participate in the process are, on the other hand, compensated by the amazing interest demonstrated by most of colleagues when such partnerships are proposed, not only for the fulfillment of latent yearnings but mainly, by the availability that is typically present in the hearts of those who think generously.

This type of cooperation results in more consistent investigations, with more conclusive results, which not only improve the knowledge and experience of the involved investigators and readers, but also benefit those who occupy the center stage in medical activity: the patients.

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