

The National Scientific Association of Dental Students of Peru - ANACEOP.

Asociación Nacional Científica de Estudiantes de Odontología del Perú – ANACEOP.

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It is essential to integrate and promote the concept of formative research and evidence-based dentistry beginning during the first years of dental training. This is essential as the profession must not only present a clinical approach, but also a research foundation in order to comprehensively train professionals. It is important to consider the importance of research in the field of dentistry not only to contribute to the clinical approach, but also to generate positive changes through its impact on society. For this reason, it is essential to acquire knowledge during student training, so that critical thinking is encouraged in students and skills in scientific writing are developed.^{1,2}

In the area of medical sciences in Peru, research at the undergraduate level has had a greater dissemination by the Sociedades Científicas de Estudiantes de Medicina (SOCEM). Under the same concept, undergraduate dentistry wants to continue disseminating research in our field and also inspire other healthcare related disciplines to continue disseminating research.³ That is why the first Sociedad Científica de Estudiantes de Odontología (SOCEO) of Peru was created, which is the society of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (SCEO-UNMSM).

After six years of operation and scientific production, it is based on this experience that various societies³ began to emerge in different universities in this country: Universidad Federico Villareal (SCEO-V), Universidad San Luis Gonzaga de Ica (SOCEO-UNSLG), Universidad Nacional del Altiplano de Puno and Universidad Peruana los Andes de Huancayo (SCEO-UPLA), with these societies being the founders of the Asociación Nacional Científica de Estudiantes de Odontología del Perú (ANACEOP), recently founded on 26th July 2020.

This association's mission is to bring together the different scientific organizations of undergraduate students, and to be the national student representation in the research area. In this way, teamwork is encouraged in order to disseminate and promote the development of scientific dental research in the country. As of november 2020, ANACEOP includes associations representing eight universities from different parts of the country, including: Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos de Lima, Universidad Federico Villareal de Lima, Universidad Nacional San Luis Gonzaga de Ica, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano de Puno, Universidad Peruana los Andes de Huancayo, Universidad San Juan Bautista de Ica,

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In this way, more than 250 students are associated who make up the different research teams based on constant work. Among the different activities promoted by ANACEOP are the coordination of talks on topics of scientific interest in which various speakers of recognized international prestige have already participated, training and constant dissemination through its website on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ANACEOPERU), and the coordination of research projects and their subsequent publication in scientific journals.

Regarding this last aspect, it is important to mention that up to the end of 2020 a total of 47 articles of the different types were published (original research, reviews, clinical cases and letters to the editor) both in Spanish and in English, available in journals with wide international visibility, guaranteed by their indexing in the most prestigious databases (Scopus, Web of Science, SciELO).

Likewise, alliances have been created with national and international associations that contribute to research such as ANACEO-Chile, IFMSA-Peru, International Association of Dental Students, in order to continue promoting collaborative research and coordinate multicenter projects with greater impact. Future premises include the organization of an event that brings together all the country's students eager to do science (National Congress of Dental Students of Peru-CONADEO-P), the creation of a scientific journal of the association and integration of the regional efforts to found the Latin American Scientific Society of Dental Students (SOCLEO), which has been a goal for some time.⁴ We hope to continue growing until we cover all the universities that contain dental careers in Peru and in this way integrate more students and continue promoting dental research in our country.

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