

## Re-thinking and re-shaping the pharmacy curriculum

Ângelo JESUS\*, Ana Isabel OLIVEIRA, Cláudia PINHO, Marlene, SANTOS,  
Patrícia CORREIA, Rita FERRAZ OLIVEIRA and Agostinho CRUZ

*Instituto Politécnico do Porto, Escola Superior de Saúde*

*\* [acj@ess.ipp.pt](mailto:acj@ess.ipp.pt)*

### ***Abstract:***

Introduction: Following the recent development of quality assurance systems, namely those in the European space, the Portuguese state a policy of periodical re-accreditation of study cycles in Higher education. With the approach of the 2016/2017 evaluation period, the School of Health Sciences saw an opportunity to re-think and re-shape the pharmacy curriculum. Methods: Following the Model for Curriculum Development, the preliminary data was obtained from SWOT analysis, interviews with students and faculty and quality assessment surveys submitted by the students. Furthermore, an analysis of the attributes of the “ideal graduate” and the foundational content relationship with professional practice was conducted, according to current legislation, national and international guidelines on Pharmacy Education. Results: A new curriculum was proposed, to respond to the gaps, redundancies and opportunities identified. This new curriculum involved the change from quarter to semester, changes in designation of the modules/disciplines and the strengthening of “Simulations/Práticas Simuladas”, which were highly valued by the SWOT analysis, and reflect the identity of the degree. Changes in instructional methods and evaluation were also addressed. The proposal was then validated by two internal committees regarding pedagogical and scientific issues. Discussion/Conclusion: The new curriculum was assessed by an external advisory committee of national and international experts. Some changes were proposed by the external committee and the new curricula was finally validated and will be fully implemented in the academic year 2018/2019.