

Editorial

The importance of strengthening the training of human talent for health research in El Salvador

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In a global context where scientific evidence is the fundamental basis for formulating effective public policies and improving health systems, it is essential to highlight the value of scientific publications. For all of the above, in this edition of *Alerta*, we seek to recognize the relevance of original articles, case reports, short communications, and reviews, the first of which is mostly derived from the National Health Survey, 2021.

The original articles based on the National Health Survey 2021 results represent an invaluable source for understanding the current state of the population's well-being and health conditions in El Salvador. These studies allow us to identify trends, evaluate possible interventions, and guide strategic decisions based on scientific evidence. The quality and rigor of the analysis provided by these studies are essential to advancing toward a more equitable, efficient, and comprehensive health system.

Likewise, the three case reports provide a detailed clinical view that can show little-known or emerging aspects of our health reality. Short communications, on the other hand, facilitate the rapid and innovative dissemination of preliminary findings or novel ideas, fostering a dynamic dialogue between researchers and health science professionals. A Narrative review offers a critical synthesis of specific topics, helping to consolidate existing knowledge and identify priority areas for future research.

Nevertheless, beyond the intrinsic value of the different types of publications, it is necessary to emphasize that the real engine of scientific progress in our country lies in strengthening specialized training, in this case, in epidemiology and research. That is why the National Institute of Health (INS) plays a transcendental role in this process: to train our future epidemiologists and scientists to face complex health challenges with technical and methodological rigor. Establishing the first non-clinical medical residency in the country is investing in the human talent necessary to create a fertile field for scientific knowledge.

Professional development in epidemiology not only improves research quality but also enhances the institutional capacity to respond to health emergencies, allows the design of effective interventions, and generates evidence contextualized to the national reality. INS is committed to continuous investment in specialized training to ensure its research is relevant, rigorous, and oriented to improve public health.

While we deeply value the scientific contributions derived from national surveys, clinical reports, and narrative reviews, we reaffirm that strengthening specialized human talent is fundamental to consolidating a robust research culture. Only through solid training can we transform data and ideas into concrete actions that benefit our entire population; proof of this is this issue where



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the new generation of INS researchers and epidemiologists present their initial contributions to the National Health System, a preamble for a better future in research, where this becomes an engine of change and a commitment to society, an act of collective responsibility, which has the power to transform lives in the country, we celebrate the first graduating class of the Specialty of Research and Epidemiology in the country!

From Alerta, we invite all actors, mainly academics in the health sector, to continue promoting scientific research committed to the country's social and health development. As well as to keep in mind the importance of training since investment in human capital is not only a strategy but an imperative need to build a healthier future for El Salvador.