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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is a Mexican Flexner possible in this century?[☆]



¿Es posible un Flexner mexicano en el nuevo siglo?

Dear Editor,

Dr Cervantes Castro¹ recently stated the need to reassess the study programs and graduates profile of the schools of Medicine around the country, analogous to what was accomplished in the USA and Canada in the last century by Dr Abraham Flexner (who is not a doctor but an educator).

The main conclusion derived from this mentioned report² can be summed up as follows: the country needs fewer but better doctors.

Mexico still apparently has the same conditions in undergraduate and graduate programs.

There are 3 countries in the world that have over 150 schools of Medicine: the USA, India and Brazil.³ Today, Mexico is on the 6th place in the world regarding the number of schools of Medicine.

In our country, certification is not easy to get. Due to so-called “academic freedom” there is resistance to being subject to the process of assessment and measurement

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of academic quality. Attempts to close schools due to the low performance of its programs could be considered an insult to education or turn into situations of a political nature which were far from the original intention.

An alternative which could be considered is certification by the Consejo Nacional de Medicina General of the graduates in a more continuous and homogenous way, with a corresponding demand for their continued professional development in the future.

References

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3. Boulet J, Bede C, McKinley D, Norcini J. An overview of the world's medical schools. Med Teach. 2007;29:20–6.

José Luis Sandoval-Gutiérrez*

Servicio de Urgencias, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Respiratorias Ismael Cosío Villegas, México, D.F., Mexico

*Correspondence to: Tlalpan 4502, Col Sec XVI, 1400 México, D.F., Mexico. Tel.: (+52) 5211 1372.

E-mail address: sandovalgutierrez@gmail.com

“Urgent need of an Abraham Flexner in Mexico” [Cir Cir. 2014;82:473–5][☆]



«Urge un Abraham Flexner en México», publicado en Cirugía y Cirujanos. 2014;82:473–5

Dear Editor,

Dear Dr Reyes Fuentes, I appreciate your invitation to comment on the letter to the publisher regarding my article.

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In fact, I agree we have too many schools when what we really need are better schools and doctors. The problem with this proliferation of schools is that there is no control about who authorises the opening and functioning of those higher education institutions, which has made the opening of a school of medicine a very lucrative business, regardless the quality of the graduates. What we need in this country is a serious study to assess the existing schools, close those which do not comply with international standards, choose the candidates for studying medicine more carefully, and check the training of graduates. The publication of the results would be very important. In that way we could know which entities allow poorly trained doctors to graduate, which would also

offer the candidates a better option to know where to study.

The certification of general practitioners is desirable, but since it is not mandatory, very few doctors achieve it.

Jorge Cervantes-Castro

*Departamento de Cirugía, Hospital ABC, México,
D.F., Mexico*

E-mail address: jcervantes@abchospital.com