

Could consumer awareness and knowledge related to the Cochrane Brazil philosophy be improved by the dissemination of information concerning evidence-based health care through a training program?

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The Problem

In 1996, Professor Álvaro Nagib Atallah created Master's and Doctoral Program in Evidence-Based Health at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP) and founded the Brazilian Cochrane Center that was patronized by Dr Iain Chalmers. Since then, the Brazilian Cochrane Center has collaborated in the creation of a critical mass of MDs and PhDs, and has trained highly qualified professionals. This article refers to the general achievements of Cochrane Brazil in partnership with this post graduation program.

Objectives

To report the number of postgraduate MDs and PhDs around the country.

Methods

In this descriptive study, we report some results of an initiative to train in evidence-based health care that has been integrated with Cochrane activists between 1996 and 2019.

Key Results

After 23 years, there have been very substantial achievements. A total of 322 people with MDs and PhDs have qualified nationwide (**Table 1**).

Conclusion

In its development, the UNIFESP project promoted use of better evidence in all university courses. Almost 250 faculties or universities were assisted by these postgraduates around the country. About 50 postgraduates students, were trained within the Ministry of Health and created the modern system of evidence-based decisions. This system resulted in Law Nº12,401, which calls for the use of evidence in any implementation of new technologies in the Unified Health System. These efforts created a strong basis for the sustainability of Cochrane and evidence-based health care activities in Brazil.

Table 1. Distribution of the graduates of the Program in Evidence-Based Health at UNIFESP since 1996 to 2019.

GRADUATES	Nº
MDs	175
PhDs	140
Post Doctorates	07
	Total: 322

• **Relevance to diversity:**
The principles are to respect diversity and the certainty that evidence-based knowledge is essential for all humans beings.

• **Relevance to patients and consumers:**
In 1996, Dr. Atallah created produced and broadcast about 1,500 TV programs for open public channels on evidence-based health care to provide knowledge to consumers. We estimate that these results have been watched by tens of millions of consumers across the country from 1996 to 2019. It improved the culture of evidence-based decision nationally and disseminated the relevance of Brazilian Cochrane to another area besides health care.



Brazilian Cochrane as MD, PhD Program Training Center.

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