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Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): The importance of the scientific communication and the updated teaching of the zoonoses

Enfermedad por coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19): Importancia de la comunicación científica y de la enseñanza actualizada de las zoonosis

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Mr. Editor:

The interesting Editorial made by Arteaga and Rodríguez (1) highlights the great contribution of the scientific communication and the open access to knowledge as a way of understanding the characteristics of the diseases that can become pandemics (1). This becomes relevant when facing the current emergency that constitutes the COVID-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, which has caused thousands of deaths and infected at the worldwide. The information about the COVID-19 is important for the health professionals as well as for those in training. This Letter to the Editor highlights the importance of the scientific communication and the updated teaching among the health science students about the zoonotic diseases.

The zoonosis is defined as that disease caused by etiological agents such as parasites, bacteria, fungi, viruses and prions, which are transmissible from animals to the humans and vice versa (2). The zoonoses caused by emerging and reemerging pathogens are a permanent global risk (3,4). The SARS-CoV-2 it is zoonotic in nature as it can be transmitted to humans from the animals. The bats have been proposed as a reservoir while the intermediary is still unknown (3,4).

The SARS-CoV-2 is a single-stranded, with positive-sense RNA virus that has an envelope and belongs to the family Coronaviridae, subfamily Orthocoronavirinae, gender Betacoronavirus, sub gender Sarbecovirus (3,4). In humans it produces COVID-19, which is characterized by acute respiratory syndrome with flu-like symptoms, and may be aggravated by pneumonia (3,4).

An interdisciplinary approach to face the constant threat of zoonotic diseases is that of "One Health" (3,5), which interrelates in a conglomerate the human, the animal and the environmental health in its various fields. The scientific information based in this approach should be disseminated among the biomedical and the health professionals, promoting that it be open access to enhance the scientific communication (1).

Additionally, it is important to make curricular innovations in the curricula of the biomedical and health careers in order to update and integrate the latest knowledge about zoonoses, emerging and re-emerging pathogens, highlighting the relevance of the "One Health" approach. The students should also be trained in scientific communication strategies (6) and promote them participation in scientific dissemination events where these topics are discussed, in order to cooperate with the development of the critical scientific thinking skills (6). On the other hand, the speed of generation of scientific knowledge is a requirement to promote in these students the reading of scientific articles in English, because this is currently the language of the scientific communication (6).

Despite the fact that the aforementioned constitutes a proposal, it can contribute to the training of quality professionals by proposing a teaching that is consistent with the demands of the society regarding the challenges that zoonotic diseases pose to us and will permanently pose to us.

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