

Responsible conduct in research in the Peruvian context

Conducta responsable en investigación, contexto peruano

Since 2015, Peru has taken a turn in research, this began with the enactment of the new university law (1), where universities were asked not only to see the academic part, but also to emphasize the scientific part. This generated that the universities began to invest in research, many of them generated actions such as the recruitment of researchers, training, individual and group incentives (2), among many others that had this purpose. Therefore, more and more research began to be developed in the undergraduate, postgraduate, international universities and with other institutions.

This fact also meant a growth in the quantity and quality of science in general in our environment, however, it is very important to also recognize that scientific integrity should have been on par with this growth, since they have been known of multiple things that have affected scientific integrity in some cases. For example, it is known institutions that go university to university offering to publish articles in a "simple" way, this would have nothing wrong if it is actually an adequate alliance for non-profit purposes, but if this is on the side of post just for the sake of indicators / money; it deviates from the main objective. It is also known that some researchers have carried out improper acts, such as experimenting on humans, conducting research with little ethical and methodological rigor, selling theses, forcing their students to put them as authors in their publications (not always fulfilling the authorship criteria), cite their works, among many others (3). Therefore, it is extremely necessary that the university and state authorities provide the facilities to be able to monitor the ethical conduct of their teachers, students and, in general, of all their staff.

To control this fact, SUNEDU has recommended that universities activate or strengthen their institutional ethics committees, generate training talks, request local, national and international certifications from their researchers, among many others (4). In addition, CONCYTEC itself has asked its researchers who are going to be classified in the categories of María Rostworowski or Carlos Monge to take a course on scientific integrity, so that everyone can know the good or bad examples of research that can be given. This has also been enhanced by the multiple offers of courses that have been given, both face-to-face (especially in the pre-pandemic times) and many virtual (5,6).

For all these reasons, it is concluded the importance of ethics in research, that universities should give more emphasis to teaching this from undergraduate, monitor the university research environment, proceed to control, have the possibility of anonymous reporting and effectively penalize the cases that are proven.

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