



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Survey on graduate education in the Confederación Americana de Urología: Opinions and reality[☆]

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KEYWORDS

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Abstract

Objective: Quality graduate medical training is a concern of Confederación Americana de Urología (CAU), the third largest urological society worldwide. It is important to analyze the diversity in the state training programs and the feasibility and implications of conducting a common CAU program.

Material and methods: A 20-item questionnaire was distributed to the directors of national societies who are members of the CAU concerning the graduate urological training in their institutions.

Results: A total of 28 presidents and expresidents representing 21 countries responded, the total number of independent states that constitute the confederation. In this setting, 664 residents start their training program every year, in an area that treats 645.4 million inhabitants, with an active professional force of 16,752 specialists. We present data on the realities of the training (length of the program, core curriculum) and occupation (job access, possible flow between countries) and on how accreditation and re-certification of specialists in these countries are conducted. We also present the opinions on the feasibility of a joint CAU degree, as well as a number of its implications.

Conclusions: The actual graduate training in the CAU setting is heterogeneous in its programs and in its accreditation and re-certification methods. There is a strong desire to achieve joint degrees, except in Spain and Portugal. To enable joint certification, there will need to be intervention on numerous aspects and levels, redefining the desire for healthcare coverage in each country and considering the possible flow of specialists.

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[◇] The names of the members of the CAU Educational Forum are listed in Annex 1.

PALABRAS CLAVE

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Recertificación;
Confederación
Americana de
Urología

Encuesta sobre la formación de postgrado en la Confederación Americana de Urología: opiniones y realidades

Resumen

Objetivo: La formación médica en el postgrado de calidad es una preocupación en la Confederación Americana de Urología (CAU), tercera sociedad urológica mundial. Es importante analizar la diversidad en los programas estatales de formación y la viabilidad e implicaciones de llevar a cabo un programa CAU común.

Materiales y métodos: Se ha distribuido a directivos de sociedades nacionales que componen la CAU un cuestionario de 20 preguntas directas sobre la formación de postgrado urológica en su entorno.

Resultados: Un total de 28 presidentes y expresidentes respondieron representando a 21 países, el total de los estados independientes que componen la confederación. En este escenario 664 residentes inician su programa de formación cada año, en un territorio que atiende 645,4 millones de habitantes, con una fuerza profesional activa de 16.752 especialistas. Se presentan datos acerca de la realidad formativa (duración de programas, troncalidad) y laboral (acceso laboral, posible flujo entre países), y sobre cómo se lleva a cabo la acreditación y recertificación de especialistas en estos países. Se presentan también las opiniones acerca de la viabilidad de una titulación conjunta CAU, así como algunas de sus implicaciones.

Conclusiones: La formación de postgrado actual en el entorno de la CAU es heterogénea en sus programas, así como en los modos de acreditación y de recertificación. Existe un importante deseo de alcanzar una titulación conjunta, salvo en España y Portugal. Para habilitar una certificación conjunta será necesario intervenir en múltiples aspectos y niveles, redefinir los deseos de cobertura sanitaria en cada país y considerar el posible flujo de especialistas.

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Introduction

The American Confederation of Urology (CAU) understands that one of its fundamental commitments is that its members, current and future urologists of the CAU territory, can receive excellent training in their respective countries, completing any type of local deficiencies with the appropriate demands to the respective ministries of education and health of each of the sovereign states that make up the confederation. The CAU believes that it is necessary to facilitate mobility among training residents with the appropriate strategies and to plan continuing medical education activities that reach them wherever they reside.

In order to satisfy the first objective, it is necessary to define precisely the academic and professional content of the medical-surgical specialty of Urology, as well as the period of training residency, the educational itinerary, and the accreditations of the responsible teaching units. Continuing training, which is qualified in a recertification format, is also an opportunity for continuous improvement of the quality of professionals to which all the states that make up the confederation should aspire.

This study has been carried out as a result of the analysis presented by the constituents of the 2nd Educational Forum held in Cancún on October 10, 2015,¹ regarding the feasibility of a common training and a joint degree for the different confederate states in the CAU, and in the presentations and discussion of the III Educational Forum held in the City of Panama on October 4, 2016.¹

Material and methods

Design and administration of the survey

The discussion generated at the 2nd CAU Educational Forum showed a heterogeneous reality in the Postgraduate of Urology in the different countries of the CAU environment. For this reason, a survey has been designed based on 20 direct questions, 2 of them (10%) with guided responses in qualitative range, to describe the reality of postgraduate training in each state ([Appendix B](#), supplementary material available in the electronic version of this article). The survey was sent on August 2, 2016 to the presidents and former presidents of each national urological scientific society (24 societies), a society per state except for Mexico, which has 2 confederate scientific societies. The survey analyzes realities and need on the degree of specialists in Urology in each country, the existence of an organized training program, and an evaluation test for the accreditation of specialists in Urology, and the impact of a possible joint degree in Latin America for the realities of each country. Two months after sending the data, they were collected in an Excel table and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System. The conclusions of the survey were presented at the 3rd CAU Educational Forum.

Results

A total of 28 presidents and former presidents responded representing 21 countries that make up the Confederation today, with the exception of the newly incorporated

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