

Madrid, October 17, 2013. - The Spanish Association of Pediatrics (AEP) today introduced "Continuum," a Continuing Education Portal created with the objective of helping Spanish-speaking health professionals to maintain and update their knowledge (<http://continuum.aeped.es/>). The contents, divided into 39 subject areas, will respond to the more than 8,000 **learning objectives** that are contained in the Global Pediatric Curriculum developed by the Global Pediatric Education Consortium (GPEC).

NACE CONTINUUM, THE "UNIVERSITY" ONLINE OF PEDIATRICS OF SPANISH SPEAKING

- The Continuum Training courses are designed and taught by specialty societies, working groups and committees of the ASP
- The platform has two types of training: individual tutorizada, and other training resources
- For this initiative, the ASP has translated into Spanish the Global Pediatric Curriculum, an initiative of the Global Pediatric Education Consortium which is the teaching of the platform structure

"This project has arisen from the need to maintain continuing medical education and accreditation in our country. It is our responsibility, as a scientific society, to provide the tools necessary to train pediatricians and deal with a possible re-accreditation in the future," explains Professor Serafin Málaga, President of the ASP.

As pointed out by Dr. Javier González de Dios, one of the co-directors of the project, "Continuum is much more than an online learning platform, since its design uses as a roadmap the 12 competencies Matrix developed by the Global Pediatric Education Consortium (GPEC). In this way, each and every one of the activities must meet specific learning objectives. "

The fact that "content is available anytime, anywhere" is another of the advantages of Continuum, explained Dr. Francisco Hijano, also co-director of the initiative, and "the platform has been designed so that its functionality is maximum on mobile devices."

The Continuum platform has "two forms of training, and other training resources," says Dr. Hijano. Thus, there are tutored activities represented by the training courses, which are accredited by the Continuing Education Committee of the Health Professions Madrid, valid throughout Spain, and other individual training such as interactive clinical cases, New Featured Article literature (which is published fortnightly), and the "Image of the Week," which aims to broaden the visual experience of pediatricians with graphic reproductions of rare as well as common diseases.

The platform also has tools for consultation, with links to many useful resources for clinical practice; The Library, with more than 500 documents considered essential, was published in the last five years, and "My Continuum" where users can keep track of the skills acquired in the activities.

As highlighted by the directors, "the virtue of Continuum courses is to promote the application of the knowledge acquired by resolution of practical cases, and flexible learning, interactive and collaborative learning with other students."

"This platform ensures the scientific quality of its contents. Ultimately, the goal is that children benefit from the best possible training of pediatricians who care for them," adds Professor Malaga.

The First Courses

All courses developed in Continuum will be designed and taught by specialty scientific societies, working groups, and committees of the ASP, which "is a mark of quality and a guarantee against conflict of interest," says Dr. González de Dios. The courses, in addition to being of professional interest, should cover the entire array of skills, ie "content can not be repeated continuously," he adds.

The first course of Continuum, which began this week, focuses on Evidence Based Medicine to solve clinical questions; we will add one of nutrition and then another on vaccines. In all there will be 39 subject areas to be addressed in Continuum, referring to specialties (eg, allergy, cardiology, dermatology) as well as general skills (eg, bioethics, palliative care).

Professionals in Spain and Latin America

The ASP has been responsible for translating into Spanish the Global Pediatric Curriculum, an initiative of the Global Pediatric Education Consortium, "to be applied in Spain and in Latin American countries." As announced by the teacher Malaga, "once the initiative is rolled, we will contact with Latin American Pediatric Association so that members in Latin American can also benefit."

On the other hand, although the contents are aimed specifically at practitioners and pediatricians in training, members of the Spanish Association of Pediatrics, and other professionals who may be interested in them can access them by subscription.

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