

Approved: Three years for Pediatric Residency Training!

24 July 2013

The proposal of the Brazilian Pediatric Society (BPS) that post-graduate residency training in Pediatrics be extended from two years to three years was adopted today unanimously by the plenary of the National Medical Residency in Brasilia. "This represents a great victory and a recognition of the value of the work of pediatricians; it is a milestone for the specialty," says Dr. Eduardo Vaz (President, BPS).

Since 2006, the Commission has been advocating this position; it was reiterated now with minor adjustments by Dr. Sandra Grisi, Director of Education and Research Society. The proposal is in line with the Global Pediatric Curriculum developed by the Global Pediatric Education Consortium (GPEC) – an organization formed by 20 national and regional institutions representing over 50 countries, including Brazil. "The international scenario favored that the proposal that the Society has been advocating for many years," says Dr. Dioclécio Campos Jr., representative to the GPEC Board of Delegates.

"The pediatrician of the XXI century must provide full assistance to human growth and development, work in an environment that is constantly changing socially, culturally, and scientifically. Pediatrics has changed and new knowledge is necessary for the professional pediatrician of today, and this cannot happen with only two years of residency training," said Dr. Sandra Grisi.

During the debate of the proposal, Dr. Antonio Figueira, Health Secretary of Pernambuco, representative of the Council of Health Secretaries (CONASS) said, "If the child is a priority, then you need to approve the proposal." Also voting in favor of the proposal were the Brazilian Medical Association, the Federal Council of Medicine, the National Federation of Physicians, the Brazilian Federation of Academies of Medicine, and the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The session was coordinated by Dr. Maria del Patrocínio Nunes, Executive Secretary of the National Medical Residency.

#### New Curriculum and Course for Trainers

The Global Pediatric Curriculum developed by the GPEC with assistance of the BPS is "global in nature and non-fragmented; it does not take the view that children are simply the sum of viscera and systems," says Dr. Dioclécio Campos. "This is a more detailed Curriculum, a roadmap for training that is built upon the fundamental premise of taking a complete and accurate history and physical examination, developing a differential diagnosis, and finally creating a treatment plan that is in the best interests of the child and his/her caregivers. The Curriculum also places an emphasis on professional ethics and the rights of the child," he explains.

According to Dr. Eduardo Vaz, the proposal will begin to be implemented in 2014 in nine universities and services, most recently visited by the president of the BPS and the representative of GPEC. These sites include: University of São Paulo, University of Brasilia, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Hospital Pequeno Príncipe (Curitiba, Paraná), Institute of Medicine Professor Fernando Figueira (Recife, Pernambuco) and Hospital Servants (Rio January). Representatives of these institutions were invited to a Training Course for Preceptors of Pediatric Residency training programs, which took place in Brasilia on the 8th and 9th of August, offered by the BPS and the University of Brasilia. The remaining programs and universities in the country will have two years to adapt to the new Curriculum and three years of training.

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