

## CARTA AO EDITOR

MEDICAL STUDENTS AND SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION  
ESTUDANTES DE MEDICINA E PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICALuis Arthur Brasil Gadelha Farias<sup>1</sup>**Keywords:** Students, Medical; Health Services Research; Research Personnel.

Dear editor,

Scientific production assumes great importance in humanity. Daily discoveries foster paradigm shifts and provide innovation in all fields of knowledge. In medicine, scientific-academic production has potential to directly reflect in population's life and can be essential tool for health care. However, we can note a low number of students appearing as authors in scientific magazines and journals.

In Brazil, several factors are related with low students involvement in research. Tenório et al. (2010) points as main difficulties of scientific initiation: the lack of institutional incentive; low interest in learning research methods by students and qualified teachers willing guide students.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, there is a decrease in number of researchers. It is known that the best way to increase researchers number resides in scientific practice promotion during graduation.<sup>1</sup>In Germany, medical students have to write a research thesis to acquire the title of medical doctor.<sup>2</sup> Cursiefen et al. (1998) conducted research aimed at evaluating a contribution of German medical students in *Medline* database. German medical students were among the authors of 316 (28%) and were the first authors of 88 (7,8%) articles.<sup>3</sup>

Not all the countries follow Germany's example. Research activities can be presented in medical courses through different ways. The research may be mandatory, elective or extracurricular. However, it is not uncommon for academics seek the world of research, but they find many difficulties as obtaining the mentoring teacher or unpreparedness and lack of knowledge in field.<sup>4</sup>

Part of academic tripod with learning and university extension (community action), research is fundamental to undergraduate. In several places, there has not been enough number of academics to choose a career in medical research.<sup>5,6</sup> In fact, it is a global problem. In South Asia, they target medical students to increase future research.<sup>7</sup> The question that arises is: What can be done to insert the undergraduate student in scientific world?

 ACESSO LIVRE

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**Instituição:** <sup>1</sup>Universidade Federal do Ceará, Ceará, Brasil.

**Autor correspondente:** Luis Arthur Brasil Gadelha Farias ;  
luisarthurbrasilk@hotmail.com

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