

“Public Health in the Training of the Pediatrician”

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The current education of the pediatrician requires constant academic training, not only in the field of biology, but also must be trained in areas such as psychology, sociology, economics, politics, among other disciplines, to be able to approach problems of Health that are increasingly structured with greater complexity and are placed before a demographic and epidemiological transition [1].

The model of training of human resources for current health care has a tendency towards specialization, as reflected by the large number of specialized doctors and subspecialties that are formed annually, there also prevails little interest within the academic programs towards subjects focused on [2], the primary health care system, the lack of a focus on health promotion and disease prevention at the individual, family and community levels is evident.

The “New Public Health” goes beyond the study of the health-disease process from the biological aspect, but tries to integrate social aspects (lifestyles) adopting actions directed at populations [3].

Conceptual Models of Public Health approach the health-disease process from different angles, from different levels, within a dynamic process. The classic biomedical and epidemiological model analyzes diseases from different aspects, the first in search of the causal agent of the disease, the second seeking to identify individual and group risk factors for different diseases; the preventive hygienist model analyzes health within the host, agent and environment equilibrium. Finally, the sociomedico model analyzes the health-disease process, focusing on the epidemiological profile resulting from biologic, psychic, social and cultural factors [4].

Addressing the subject of public health within the training programs of pediatric doctors opens the way for the latter to participate not only in patient care (curing diseases) but also to participate in the management and implementation of public health programs that can empower the population to preserve their health.

The determinants of health in our time are complex and varied, with a complex network of connections between biological and social aspects, which has generated the need for an approach by the different branches of science, and not only under the pure precepts of some of these branches, but by the precepts of several of them, the so-called now transdisciplines [5]. It is important that these determinants be monitored, analyzed and interpreted and used to implement and update changes in the approach to health-disease processes [6].

The role and vision of the pediatrician should focus not only on the biological area, but should also be extended to other areas such as the economy where he can participate in government budget planning for health care; to politics, where it could influence according to population studies in the development of health policies according to each region of the country, for each social class, considering the great social, geographical and biological inequalities of the population [7].

The current conditions of our society are complex, the health of our population is affected even by communicable diseases, noncommunicable diseases play a major role in the burden of current disease, and finally, diseases derived from addictions and violence that in the last years have participated like frequent cause of death within young population [8]. It is therefore a necessity for educational insti-

tutions to make changes in the training programs of health professionals. Physicians Pediatricians must graduate with competencies that allow them to manage the disease health process of the population under their care, with competencies for the development of qualitative or quantitative studies through which they can evaluate, analyze and perform health improvement actions from their Different points, and finally must acquire competencies to be able to educate its population, to obtain the empowerment of these and to strengthen thus the prevention.

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