

The role of the ASBAI's Academic League Committee in medical training

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Dear Editor,

The Brazilian Undergraduate National Curriculum Guidelines for Medicine require Higher Education Institutions to adapt their curriculum frameworks to cover all pillars of education during the training process, in accordance with the needs of the academic community.¹

In the quest to acquire skills for future professional performance, it is important that students have the opportunity to experience and learn care pertinent to disease prevention and health promotion, in order to develop an active, critical, innovative, and evidence-based viewpoint.^{2,3}

In recent years, there has been a considerable increase in the number of academic leagues operating in undergraduate medical schools in Brazil, with the same occurring in the Allergy and Immunology medical specialty. Although there is no consensus in the literature on the definition of academic league, both the Brazilian National Executive Board of Medical Students and the Brazilian Association of Academic Leagues seem to agree that an academic league is a student association that adopts the university tripod as a reference: teaching, research, and extension.^{4,5}

Therefore, the importance of academic leagues for health training is highlighted, including the Allergy and Immunology specialty, since the participation of medical students in these leagues helps broaden their view of health care as professionals. Following this premise, in September 2021 the Brazilian Association of Allergy and Immunology (ASBAI) created the ASBAI Program for Allergy and Immunology Academic Leagues. The Program aims to bring together students who express an interest in advancing their knowledge of the Allergy and Immunology specialty while still in medical school.⁶

The activities developed in the Program are coordinated by the Academic League Committee, which

is subordinate to the Teaching and Service Accreditation Committee. The Academic League Committee consists of expert associates who coordinate Immunoallergy academic leagues in their institutions. The league members play a key role in the development of activities that adopt the university tripod (teaching, research, and extension) as a reference. These activities include discussion of clinical cases through webinars [teaching], preparation of guides on the management of allergic and immunologic diseases for general practitioners, primary care physicians, and emergency physicians [teaching/extension], preparation of information material for the general population [extension], and encouragement of research.

Brazil is a country of continental size with a health system that operates in a heterogeneous and complex manner, requiring a broader vision capable of incorporating individuals in all their dimensions. The gathering of students from various parts of the country around the learning of Allergy and Immunology must ensure a dialogue between the different forms of knowledge.

Finally, the ASBAI Program for Allergy and Immunology Academic Leagues has occupied a major place in the teaching-learning process of undergraduate students. In this respect, a constant dialogue between the participants in this process is necessary to recognize learning needs and enhance these complementary strategies for health training, especially the growth of the Allergy and Immunology specialty.

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