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PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND LEPROSY

Education is everything. It permeates all life aspects of an individual and the community. From all angles of our existence, education expresses itself.

In respect to leprosy, this is no different. Knowledge of the disease and all of its nuances determine what is expected in the next decades.

Undergraduate and graduate schools have constantly reduced the teaching hours dedicated to the theoretical and practical aspects of leprosy and fewer and fewer professors and students can see and feel the problems of the disease, which, consequently, has become no different for health professionals. With the number of cases in decline and so many other emerging diseases among the many problems we face in the Brazilian National Health Service (SUS), ill-prepared basic healthcare teams and managers, understaffing and public health policies that favor medium and high complexity procedures, leprosy is at risk of 'falling' into oblivion. Often basic principles of established knowledge of the disease, built up by serious researchers, are replaced to simplify information leading to misinformation about the situation.

Some areas, where great steps towards the elimination of the disease have been achieved according to the World Health Organization, show other indicators, such as poor control of contacts, the transmissible clinical form and high degree of disability, that suggest a disturbing hidden prevalence.

Paschoal VDA. Professional training and leprosy. *Hansen Int.* 2015; 40 (2): p. 1.

Brazil currently has around 226 medical schools, 880 Nursing schools added to courses of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology, dentistry, among many others in the health field. Imagine how many healthcare professionals enter the job market annually. The discussion circles of undergraduate courses, medical and multi-professional residencies and continuing education are opportunities in which to rescue the commitment and involvement of professors, students and other health professionals, thereby changing the view of the leprosy problem.

Education has the power to transform and make people aware with serious research being the first step. Congratulations to those who dedicate themselves to this vocation.

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