

## **Experience of the Uruguayan College of Physicians (CMU) in Distance Medical Education**

Néstor Campos, MD, President, Uruguayan College of Physicians, Uruguay

The CMU was created in 2010 by law. It is a public entity, and it is necessary to be a member to practice as a physician in Uruguay (15,000 is the approximate number of registered physicians in the Country). Within its duties, in conjunction with other institutions, it provides continuing medical education (CME) to the entire professional group, covering all the territory. It has an Ethics Department that judges the behavior of doctors; it also has a National Council and 5 Regional Councils.

In Uruguay, there are about 80 medical specialties. Therefore, CMU has mainly addressed topics of interest to the whole group, which we call cross-cutting issues, such as Ethics.

We have implemented conferences and courses. The conferences are both face-to-face and transmitted through multipoint teleconference systems across the country, using the services of the Peluffo Guiguens Foundation and the Medical Federation of the Interior (FEMI). In general, they last 2 hours, allowing for questions of those present or messages by mobile phone by the remote participants.

The Courses (Bioethics, Pain in the oncology patient, among others), through a platform developed by CMU, in which we deliver materials (mini-lectures, selected literature, etc.) to the participants, which are left for 10 days (including 2 weekends) a new course topic is added. During this period, it is allowed to leave questions or comments for discussion between the trainees and the Faculty. In each topic, there are questions for self-evaluation.

As an example:

- a) Bioethics course: 939 doctors enrolled,
- b) Pain management course: 834

In all cases, we leave on our website, as well as our YouTube and Vimeo channels, all the information that members can use when they need it or when they can, since the workload of many Uruguayan doctors is large. We have seen that many events with little participation at the moment are later seen by many members of the CMU.

Some more data about participation:

- a) Search for agreements had 7,700 visits
- b) medical certifications: 2,600
- c) Influenza: 934
- d) Cannabis in adolescence: staging and risk: 547
- e) zika virus: 535
- f) bioethics discussions: first: 381, second: 313
- g) humanism and medical professionalism: 202
- h) diseases transmitted by aedes aegypti 255
- i) revealing cannabis myths: 157
- j) Mobbing: 104