

EDITORIAL

We're still young: Let's Educate the Next Generation*Somos jóvenes. Educamos a nuestros hijos*Manuel Vázquez Lima¹, Juan Jorge González Armengol²

Classically, it has been considered that a specialty must answer three questions: healthcare demand, doctrinal body and professionals dedicated to it¹. The reality that Emergency and Emergency Medicine (MUE) is a specialty can't be denied: more than 25,000,000² cases per year; a perfectly defined and published training curriculum³ (recently revised) and more than 15,000 professionals fully dedicated to this discipline. We wonder how is it possible to deny evidence.

In Spain, the first binding reports of the Ministry of Health itself in the mid-2000s⁴ already speak of the need for specific training in this discipline, advocating in different successive reports that the best guarantee for this training is its own specialty.

This reality is already reflected in a political consensus that happened in 2007 with a joint Law Proposal (PNL) which both PP-PSOE approved unanimously. And even a Royal Decree was drafted creating this specialty.

Witnesses and co-participants of this progress, (in the professional world the Medical Collegiate Organization) have supported the existence of this specialty⁵. There has also been notable support in the union environment. What to say about the report of the ombudsmen of the year 2015⁶, absolutely conclusive in this regard. In the Spanish military sphere, the specialty of MUE has been a reality since 2016^{7,8}.

The professionals who are dedicated to the EM have expressed their desire for a structured training via MIR in this specialty; thus, 99% of the heads of service have addressed the Ministry of Health urging its creation, as have all the autonomous presidents⁹ of the Spanish Society of Emergency Medicine (the only representative society).

Permanent assistance dedication 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in the different services has been appreciated by citizens¹⁰. Also, for years, the incidents of multiple victims (Madrid, Santiago or Barcelona more recently) remind us of the decisive role of emergency medical services (EMS) and hospital emergency services (HES) in these determined (and regrettable) scenarios¹¹.

Scientific activity¹² and clarifying education-wise. Twenty-seven work groups with incessant dynamism,

more than 500 courses, more than 1,000 workshops or 150 days a year; a National Congress with a greater number of emergency physicians each year (3,000 participants in 2017, which we will overcome in Toledo 2018), or our EMERGENCIAS¹³ magazine (in the first quartile of our specialty and recently included in PubMed, a real pride for our collective). Add a serious commitment of information to the population to which we owe. Little else has to be said. Spanish emergency physicians are always willing to talk, always reaching out to seek alliances and agreements based on respect for their specialty. And we have been sharing with our colleagues many consensuses in different matters for years.

This path has been parallel to that developed by the specialty of EM in Europe; currently the specialty is recognized in 22 countries of the European Union (> 100 worldwide) and has its own independent section (and its commission board) within the European Union of Specialist Physicians¹⁴.

The time has come to move forward, to definitely recognize this specialty. The process, as it cannot be otherwise, would be progressive, inclusive and coherent. The cost, null. The teaching structures are defined, as well as the curriculum and the competences document made based on the European consensus.

Thirty years have passed since our scientific society was founded¹⁵. We are young, as our specialty in the world. Youth and future go together. It is time to make a qualitative leap without comparison for the EM in Spain. There is only one definite path. It is a question of justice, necessity and dignity, but it is also a matter of feeling. We own our space, guarantors of equity and patrons of training; we want to educate "our children". Children of the EM¹⁶⁻¹⁸, born of a constant process of work, effort, integration and undoubtedly emotions. Let's not deny the evidence, let's live in reality; Progress only has one direction, which we all already know.

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