

THE ACADEMIC LEAGUES PHENOMENON

O fenômeno das Ligas Acadêmicas

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Dear Editor,

There are a growing number of academic leagues being created in medical schools across Brazil. Several reports of their experience have already been published, from various medical specialties and also from different courses in the health area¹. The beginning of this proliferation of leagues coincided with the period of major reforms in the National Curricular Guidelines. However, this process seems to come without the necessary reflections, as already pointed out by some authors².

Some authors have criticized the academic leagues, highlighting the possible subversion of the formal curricular structure, the reproduction of academic defects, early specialization, the risk of practicing medicine without guidance and supervision, and the emphasis on teaching and research to the detriment of university

extension programs^{2,3}. The benefits of academic leagues are many and, in my view, they outweigh the risks they pose.

In the last edition (Vol. 27, No. 1, Jan.-Mar. 2017), the Breast League of the Federal University of Goiás reported its excellent experience, with diverse scientific production and stimulating research, teaching and extension courses. Accordingly, I would like to take excerpt from this article: “there is no survey on the academic ties of mastology in Brazil and no publications on the benefits of these projects for the public⁴”. Maybe it is time we understood the leagues as a joint phenomenon and no longer as isolated experiences. As done by the Brazilian Association of Intensive Medicine some years ago⁵, perhaps the Brazilian Society of Mastology could carry out a national survey, to determine how many breast leagues there are in the country, where they are and how they operate.

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