

Strategic international alliances for cooperation and training: joining forces

Alianza estratégica internacional de cooperación y formación en Medicina de Urgencias y Emergencias. La suma de las fuerzas

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For several years now, the Spanish Society of Emergency Medicine (SEMES) has decided to open its borders, attempting to expand its sphere of influence. Thanks to the effort and ongoing work of several Executive Boards, the progress achieved is beginning to become visible. SEMES has established itself as a leading scientific society at the international level.

Within this progress, we would like to highlight 2 developments that have contributed to improving SEMES's international relations. Both began around the same time. In 2019, the 1st International Emergency Medicine Conference took place in Toledo (Spain). These conferences, which we call CONCEPTOS, are organized in collaboration with the Emergency Medicine Section of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Additionally, during the opening ceremony, a collaboration agreement was signed between SEMES and the Latin American Federation of Emergency Medicine (FLAME), endorsed by the presidents of both entities.

We wish to emphasize that CONCEPTOS is an international, academic, university-based conference created and developed by the Emergency Medicine Section of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Santiago de Chile, Chile). The conference originated in 2012 with the goal of publicizing the specialty of Emergency Medicine in Chile at a time when, although it was already being taught by other universities in the country, the core competencies and even the existence of the discipline were unclear. This resulted in a limited number of physicians interested in training in this specialty. The objective of CONCEPTOS was to be a distinctive educational activity, with the mission of teaching as didactically as possible through dynamic lectures and brief presentations intended to deliver clear messages to the audience on topics closely linked to daily clinical practice, always maintaining a high academic standard and based on the best available scientific evi-

dence, oriented toward education and learning. Since then, more than 5,000 students from Chile and abroad have attended, recognizing and valuing the "unique style" that CONCEPTOS offers. The conference is aimed at all health care personnel working in pre-hospital care, hospital emergency departments, and all professionals who provide initial care to critically ill patients.

Over the 11 years in which the conference has taken place in Chile, the initial goal has been achieved: to improve the knowledge and teaching of Emergency Medicine. Currently, many of those aspiring to the specialty have been motivated and introduced to it through this course. The impact on medical education at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile was immediate; interest from other specialties in adopting certain features of the CONCEPTOS format positioned it locally as the most important conference within the university's School of Medicine.

It was in this way that national and international collaboration began to take shape. International speakers, attracted by the novel and engaging format, mission, and vision of the conference, have been important promoters throughout the Spanish-speaking world. For several years now, CONCEPTOS has also undergone a phase of internationalization aimed at supporting other countries in the development of Emergency Medicine. Examples include joint international events with scientific societies such as the Costa Rican Association of Emergency Medicine (ASOCOME) in Costa Rica on 2 occasions, and in Spain with SEMES in 2019 and 2021. In both countries, using the original CONCEPTOS concept developed in Chile, the same format has been adapted, resulting in great organizational, educational, and attendance success. In Spain, the two editions held have been attended by a total of 1,300 participants and featured 120 faculty members from Spain, Chile, Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, and Australia.

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With this spirit of collaboration and the development of Emergency Medicine, efforts continue to increase cooperation with other scientific societies within FLAME, with the intention of reproducing CONCEPTOS in all Spanish-speaking member countries. In this way, with a shared goal and combined efforts, we will achieve a common development of emergency medicine through education and training, which will also serve as motivation for those of us who practice this specialty every day. It is highly enriching to engage and share our educational experience with international experts who have the privilege of holding an official specialty title that, in Spain, the Government continues to deny us.

On the other hand, given the imminent growth of time-dependent diseases worldwide as leading causes of death—where timely, accurate, and effective care is essential for both immediate and long-term patient prognosis—the need arises to unite Emergency Medicine professionals across different regions and countries that share cultural, social, structural, and healthcare system similarities. Sharing scientific information and generating knowledge in the Spanish language allows more professionals in emergency medicine to access reliable and up-to-date information. FLAME has been the response to these needs, being offi-

cially recognized by the International Federation for Emergency Medicine (IFEM) and maintaining strong alliances with other societies, such as SEMES—the largest Spanish-speaking Emergency Medicine Society in the world—with which a collaboration agreement was established in 2019, as previously mentioned. It is worth noting that this collaboration has produced several jointly developed documents between SEMES and FLAME which, during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, served as Clinical Practice Guidelines in Latin America and were adopted by IFEM as official documents.¹⁻³

The CONCEPTOS event has become known for its disruptive approach relative to the usual model of conferences or training courses. Its dynamism has allowed for greater engagement, an attractive format, and a model highly praised by participants. The topics addressed reflect the daily reality of any emergency or urgent care setting, giving the event real practical value for all attendees.

Creating alliances makes us greater, stronger, and helps us move forward. FLAME, SEMES, and CONCEPTOS together form an alliance that multiplies the benefits for health care professionals and, most importantly, for Spanish-speaking patients.

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ANNEX
FRAMEWORK COLLABORATION
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SPANISH
SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
(SEMES) AND THE LATIN AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
(FLAME).

