



Editorial

New accreditation criteria for Rheumatology teaching units

Nuevos criterios de acreditación de unidades docentes de Reumatología

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The “Comisión Nacional de Reumatología” (CNR) (National Rheumatology Commission) is an advisory organ to the Ministries of Education and Health. Its composition, competences and functioning are regulated by article number 28 of the Sanitary Professions Planning Law.¹ The CNR is composed of 11 members: 2 members put forward by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport; 4 specialist members of renowned prestige put forward by the Human Resources Committee of the National Health System; 2 members who represent the Spanish Rheumatology Society; 2 members who represent the specialists in training; and 1 member in representation of the Medical Association Organisation.

The CNR is the key organ for the design of the contents of the specialty. This significant role comes from the functions that Law 44/2005 determines for the National Committees of the different specialties.¹ Among other functions, the CNR must propose to the Administration the accreditation criteria that will allow a Rheumatology unit to train specialists.

In autumn 2008, after several months of arduous work and lively discussions, the CNR unanimously approved a proposal of new accreditation criteria for Rheumatology training units. It is worth mentioning that the CNR is an advisory organ that submits its technical suggestions to the State Administration, but it is the Administration, particularly the Ministries of Education and Health and the Inter-territorial Committee of Autonomous Regions, which (taking into account the technical report) debates, modifies and finally approves the norm.

We are currently in a situation of transition, in which the new accreditation criteria put forward by the CNR have not yet been approved. At the same time, the current accreditation criteria in force are clearly obsolete in some of their requirements. A typical example would be the imperative for 200 annual admissions, a clearly unrealistic requirement in 21st century rheumatologic

practice. In this issue of *Reumatología Clínica*, Olivé et al² publish the proposal of accreditation criteria for the training of rheumatologists through residency. This proposal complies with the reality of current Rheumatology practice and the Rheumatology Training guide recently published in the Spanish Official State Gazette (BOE).³ Its format, distributing the accreditation requirements into different domains, allows for a structured, profound and detailed assessment of the units that aspire to train Rheumatology residents. Furthermore, it allows for flexibility in the application of the criteria, making it possible to compensate for certain weaknesses in some areas with strength and excellence in others. The CNR is convinced that these new criteria will ensure adequate tutelage of our residents, with ideal training in the healthcare, educational, research, and management aspects of our specialty.

From an operative point of view, the CNR will have to be able to grant certificates that prove the fulfilment of the due requirements. Those people in charge of the proposed units must not hesitate to contact the president of the CNR or any other member in order to obtain detailed information about these certifications.

Lastly, as president of the CNR, I would like to thank all the members for their extraordinary effort in carrying out this new accreditation criteria proposal, and especially Doctor Juan Ángel Jover and Doctor Alejandro Olivé, for their decisive role in the genesis of the project. All the members of the CNR hope that this new accreditation criteria proposal will help new Rheumatology units to embark on the fascinating adventure of training excellent rheumatologists.

References

1. Ley 44/2003. BOE November 22, 2003.
2. Olive, et al. Reference mode to special article.
3. Orden SAS/2855/2009. BOE October 26, 2009.

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