



Results and challenges of the Research Unit of the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences, May 2022-December 2023

Resultados y retos de la Unidad de Investigación de la Facultad de Ciencias Médicas y de la Vida, mayo 2022-diciembre 2023

Résultats et enjeux de l'Unité de Recherche de la Faculté des Sciences Médicales et de la Vie, mai 2022-décembre 2023

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The Research Unit in the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences is essential to its academic mission and contribution to society. By encouraging research, a university can advance knowledge, improve educational quality, promote innovation, and maintain a reputation for academic excellence. **Objective:** To analyze the results and challenges of the Research Unit since its creation. **Method:** An analysis of the functions and work results of the three subordinate areas and theoretical-level methods. **Results:** The results achieved during the first year and a half of work once the Research Unit was implemented in the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences of Universidad Da Vinci de Guatemala in its three areas: research coordination, graduation projects, and scientific dissemination. Challenges to achieve better results. Emphasis on the role of young people in university research. The annual rejection rate of the journal is 75%, an indicator that is within the range of other international journals. Ninety research protocols were approved, and 68 theses were defended. **Conclusions:** Once the analysis of the functioning of the Research Unit in its three

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coordinations was completed, encouraging results were found, which speak of how much work was done in the analyzed period and the challenges to be faced in the medium and long term.

Keywords: operation, science, knowledge, research.

RESUMEN

Introducción: la Unidad de Investigación en la Facultad de Ciencias Médicas y de la Vida es esencial para su misión académica y su contribución a la sociedad. Al fomentar la investigación, una universidad puede avanzar en el conocimiento, mejorar la calidad educativa, promover la innovación y mantener una reputación de excelencia académica. **Objetivo:** analizar los resultados y retos de la Unidad de Investigación desde su creación. **Método:** Se realiza un análisis de las funciones y los resultados de trabajo de las tres áreas subordinadas, y se utilizan métodos del nivel teórico. **Resultados:** se presentan los resultados alcanzados durante el primer año y medio de trabajo, una vez implementada la Unidad de Investigación en la facultad de Ciencias Médicas y de la Vida de la Universidad da Vinci de Guatemala, en sus tres áreas: coordinación de investigación, de trabajos de graduación y de divulgación científica. Se identifican retos a tener en cuenta para el logro de mejores resultados. Se enfatiza en el papel de los jóvenes en las investigaciones universitarias. La tasa de rechazo anual de la revista es del 75%, indicador que se mueve en el rango de otras revistas internacionales. Se han aprobado 90 protocolos de investigación y se han defendido 68 tesis. **Conclusiones:** Una vez realizado el análisis del funcionamiento de la Unidad de Investigación en sus tres coordinaciones, se encontraron resultados alentadores, que hablan de lo mucho que se trabajó en el periodo analizado, y se identificaron los retos a enfrentar a mediano y largo plazo.

Palabras clave: funcionamiento, ciencia, conocimiento, investigación.

RÉSUMÉ

Introduction: L'Unité de recherche de la Faculté des Sciences Médicales et des Ciencias de la Vie est essentielle à sa mission académique et à sa contribution à la société. En encourageant la recherche, une université peut faire progresser les connaissances, améliorer la qualité de l'enseignement, promouvoir l'innovation et maintenir une réputation d'excellence académique. **Objectif:** analyser les résultats et les enjeux de l'Unité de recherche depuis sa création. **Méthode:** Une analyse des fonctions et des résultats de travail des trois domaines subordonnés est effectuée et des méthodes de niveau théorique sont utilisées. **Résultats:** les résultats obtenus au cours de la première année et demie de travail sont présentés, une fois l'Unité de recherche implantée dans la Faculté des Sciences Médicales et de la Vie de l'Universidad da Vinci de Guatemala, dans ses trois domaines: coordination de la recherche, des projets de fin d'études. et la diffusion scientifique. Les défis sont identifiés et doivent être pris en compte pour obtenir de meilleurs résultats. L'accent est mis sur le rôle des jeunes dans la recherche universitaire. Le taux de refus annuel de la revue est de 75 %, un indicateur qui se situe dans la fourchette des autres revues internationales. 90 protocoles de recherche ont été approuvés et 68 d'entre eux ont été défendus. **Conclusions:** Une fois réalisée l'analyse du fonctionnement de l'Unité de recherche dans ses trois coordinations, des résultats

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encourageants ont été trouvés, qui témoignent de l'ampleur du travail réalisé au cours de la période analysée et des défis à relever à moyen et long terme.

Mots clés: *fonctionnement, science, connaissance, recherche.*

INTRODUCTION

The Research Unit in a university plays a crucial role in the development and advancement of the institution. It is essential to its academic mission and its contribution to society. By encouraging research, a university can advance knowledge, improve educational quality, promote innovation, and maintain a reputation for academic excellence.

The Research Unit (UI) of the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences (FCMV) of Universidad Da Vinci de Guatemala (UDV) was born on May 2, 2022, as the integrative vision of research to management, teaching, assistance, and university extension. The UI focuses on training students and professionals, whether from the FCMV or other health areas, who investigate not only the behavior and characteristics of the problems that arise from social practice but also on closing the circle of all scientific research. It is about finding solutions to these problems, implementing them, socializing them, and publishing them.

Its **mission** is to promote and coordinate the faculty's Science, Innovation, and Technology (CIT) activities about the learning-teaching processes. Its **vision** is increasing science and technology indicators, with national and international recognition of research and scientific dissemination activities.

The UI is the body in charge of the organization, coordination, management, and evaluation of the continuous improvement, monitoring, and dissemination of scientific research carried out at the faculty by the regulations designed by this unit, which regulate the research project from its approval, registration, execution, and evaluation of Scientific Research activities; as well as advise and review graduation projects for students who have completed Pensum in the different FCMV careers. It is also responsible for scientific research publications in the Journal of Medical and Life Sciences (RCMV).

The UI has the Organization and Functions Manual (MOF), which is one of the tools of the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences of the Universidad Da Vinci de Guatemala (UDV), to facilitate the development of its investigative functions (including graduation projects) and science dissemination; becoming an instrument of communication.

The content of the MOF is the responsibility of the UI and the staff who work there, subject to prior approval by the faculty's board of directors. It is a normative document of institutional scientific management that regulates responsibilities and describes the functions of specific positions according to authority level. Orient new personnel, allowing them to understand better the functions that correspond to them according to a particular position.

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Objectives of the UI:

1. Strengthen the research capabilities of the faculty's human capital.
2. Update the faculty's research lines to provide answers to the problems that exist in the institution and the Guatemalan population.
3. Promote the carrying out of scientific research that allows the generation and appropriation of new knowledge.
4. Carry out the approval, monitoring, and evaluation of research projects (including thesis topics) based on the standards established by this unit.
5. Develop the Faculty's Journal of Medical and Life Sciences editorial process.
6. Disseminate continuously the information and scientific production generated by the research carried out at the institution.
7. Bibliographical references in teacher and student training programs, disseminating research results.
8. Articulate teaching with research work.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the results and challenges of the Research Unit of the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences of Universidad Da Vinci de Guatemala a year and a half after its launch.

METHOD

Analysis of digital and printed documents gave information related to approved protocols and defended theses, thesis workshops for students, and research induction courses for advisors, courses for authors, among others—the views and readings of the articles among the countries where the journal is displayed.

Theoretical level methods

Analytical-synthetic: it was used to delve into the specialized bibliography as an essential aspect in forming the theoretical framework of the research related to the UI design process and its components. Furthermore, in the analysis of the results of the application of empirical methods.

Historical-logical: Used to determine the main background and historical trends of the evolution of the object of study and how it affects the UI.

Systematization: Identifying trends and essential features in treating national and international researchers.

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Functional structural systemic: Establishing regularities about the self-management of science and technological innovation in the UI. It also allowed us to outline the structure and components of the UI organizational chart.

Inductive-deductive: it was used to reflect on the considerations of different authors related to the topic and subsequently reach conclusions about the general characteristics of the UI organizational chart.

RESULTS

To analyze the results, we will work with them in each coordination. This can be seen in the organization chart already published in 2023. ¹

Scheme 1. Organization chart of the FCMV-UDV Research Unit.



Source: Columbié-Pileta M, Chávez-Meza GA. ¹

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Research Coordination carried out a first homologation of contents. As a result of continuous improvement, a new analysis was carried out. They have been standardized again from the first to the fourth year in the Medicine program and the third year of Nutrition. This was achieved by understanding the stages of the research process and the tools necessary for its proper development. As shown below.

Scientific Research Process. Stages.

I. Research planning

- Types of research projects
- Construction and validation of instruments
- Universe and sample
- Research Classification: Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed
- Epidemiological research designs
- Research in Health Systems and Services (ISSS)
- Intervention studies
- Survival studies
- Diagnostic means
- Qualitative research
- Ethics of research and scientific publication

II. Research execution

III. Processing and analysis of research results

- Descriptive statistics
- Statistics for each type of research

IV. Preparation of the final report

V. Publication of results and introduction of achievements in social practice

- Final report (types of thesis)
- Scientific article
- Scientific poster

* Tools that complement scientific writing on health

- Scientific writing
- Information management
- Bibliographic managers
- Plagiarism in academic and scientific writing
- Paraphrasing techniques
- Vancouver Standards as a bibliographic style in biomedical research
- Structure of the protocol for the FCMV-UDV
- Structure of the thesis for the FCMV-UDV

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- Defense act: Oral and written presentation
- Visual ergonomics of the scientific document
- Examples of the most common errors in preparing the protocol and the thesis.

The contents were not organized in that order but instead were constituted as necessary tools to develop a complete and feasible research protocol later. More time is dedicated to practices during class and to work based on practical health problems specific to the course, which motivates the student to apply new knowledge.

Furthermore, the new organization allows for the same content to be carried out in the same week in the corresponding courses and venues and for research to be carried out throughout the course, which ends in the publication of scientific articles in the RCMV. The evaluations go beyond the paradigm of the objective test to present the progress of their research, with the scoring established according to the rubric. This is how we move at a good pace towards accreditation.

In this way, the student is motivated to start and continue on the research path. The final exam culminates with an annual event called **the Student Scientific Meeting**, where everyone presents the results of their annual research at the headquarters level. They also qualify for their presentation of work at the August congress. In addition, students who win the course with 80 points or more and take the oriented online courses finish in the third and fourth year with a Diploma in Scientific Writing and a Diploma in Scientific Research certificate.

As part of this coordination, the Faculty of Teachers will begin in the first week of each month, starting in January 2024. This will allow you to clarify doubts regarding the content to be taught, ways of approaching the topics, what you can contribute to another teacher, and talking about the lessons learned in the previous month. We move towards continuous improvement of the processes. It is a group complement space.

During the third week of November, the coordinator of this area must deliver his results report to the Investigations Unit.

Encouraging results are also reflected in the **Coordination of Graduation Projects**. To date, 90 protocols have been approved, and 68 theses have been defended between the headquarters of Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, and Huehuetenango in the Medicine and Nutrition majors. This achievement has been achieved thanks to the development of the Thesis Workshop for students, which lasts four months and ends with the approval of the protocol before the evaluating panel; this before a preliminary and complimentary review of its protocol. This is returned three weeks before the final presentation of the protocol, which is enough time for the student to correct said document before reaching its evaluation.

With the new approval, the thesis workshops starting in 2025 will no longer include the preparation of the protocol but rather the preparation of the final report and its presentation. The workshop is a

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learning space with the application of theory and practice so that each topic taught theoretically sees its application in the particular examples of each of the students' investigations.

Several documents have been designed that homogeneously allow evaluation in the three locations and careers. There are forms for the student, the advisors, the reviewers, and the evaluator teams.

At the moment, the Ethics-Bioethics Committee is in formation. However, to approve these works, the student must explain how they comply with ethics during their research process. It is a section that is difficult to achieve compliance with as established, but its improvement continues.

The entire process in this coordination was organized so that it flowed appropriately, including the process of closing the file and graduating students. It is not yet possible for everyone to graduate together in their class, but they do graduate, which is an outstanding achievement.

The work of the **Scientific Dissemination Coordination** is evident in obtaining the ISSN of the Journal of Medical and Life Sciences for the electronic version 2958-9533 and the printed version 2960-2696. It has 18 articles published in the journal's first year out of 69 that were received. Of them were two editorials, eight original articles, two review articles, three special collaboration articles, and three medical images. Four of the original articles are authored by students, which constitutes a good motivation and example for young researchers.

As of November 29, 2023, at 10:31 p.m., the journal has received 5,849 views from 64 countries. This visibility is undoubtedly due to the publication in English, French, and Spanish. English-speaking countries occupy places 3, 4, 6, and 10. The first ten countries are presented below.

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Image 1. Visualizations of the RCMV at the national and international level.

No.	Country	Last Visit		Percent & Number of Visits	
1	Guatemala	Wed Nov 29, 2023	22:22:11	56.76%	3,320
2	Cuba	Mon Nov 27, 2023	09:04:11	14.16%	828
3	Ireland	Wed Nov 29, 2023	18:31:49	6.48%	379
4	United States	Fri Nov 24, 2023	12:11:58	3.85%	225
5	Peru	Wed Nov 29, 2023	18:06:27	3.30%	193
6	Kenya	Sun Nov 12, 2023	13:57:15	2.94%	172
7	Colombia	Sun Nov 19, 2023	19:25:34	2.46%	144
8	Mexico	Tue Nov 28, 2023	14:20:56	1.37%	80
9	Ecuador	Wed Nov 22, 2023	11:22:43	0.97%	57
10	Canada	Fri Nov 17, 2023	19:05:49	0.70%	41

Source: <https://www.revolvermaps.com/livestats/locations/5kgj36z6jeb/>

Three hundred thirty users have registered, 227 wish to be journal reviewers, while 120 have registered as authors. People can register as readers, authors, and reviewers simultaneously. The most viewed and downloaded articles are presented below. It is important to note that the first and third are articles authored by students.

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Image 2. Views and downloads of articles.

Título	Consultas del resumen	Visualizaciones de archivo	PDF	HTML	Otro	Total
Méndez et al. Estado nutricional en estudiantes de medicina de primer año de la Facultad de Ciencias Médicas y de la Vida: Nutritional status in first-year medical students at the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences/ État nutritionnel des étudiants en médecine en première année à la Faculté des Sciences Médicales et de la Vie	415	500	487	0	13	915
Betancourt-Loyola et al. Plasmocitoma extramedular en paciente diabética con mieloma múltiple: Extramedullary plasmocytoma in diabetic patient with multiple myeloma/ Plasmocytome extramédullaire chez un patient diabétique avec myélome multiple	117	593	122	0	471	710
Sutuc et al. Expectativa versus realidad en estudiantes al iniciar la carrera de medicina, en Universidad Da Vinci de Guatemala. Enero-Julio 2022: Expectations versus reality in students when starting the medicine career, at Da Vinci University of Guatemala. January-July 2022 / Attentes contre réalité chez les étudiants au début de la carrière en médecine, à l'université Da Vinci Du Guatemala. Janvier-Juillet 2022	270	292	291	0	1	562
Columbié-Pileta et al. Diseño de la Revista Científica de Ciencias Médicas y de la Vida: Design of the scientific journal of medical and life sciences / Conception de la Revue Scientifique des Sciences Médicales et de la Vie	246	252	247	0	5	498
Calderón-Pinzón Corrupción y salud 6: una visión presidencial para Guatemala sustentada en los determinantes sociales de la salud: Corruption and health 6: a presidential vision for Guatemala based on the social determinants of health Corruption et santé 6: une vision présidentielle pour le Guatemala basée sur les déterminants sociaux de la santé	325	119	117	0	2	444

Source: <https://editorial.udv.edu.gt/index.php/RCMV/stats/publications/publications>

In this first year of life, the journal has received 69 articles. The days for acceptance have been up to 67, while for rejection, they have reached up to 115 days. The acceptance rate is 25%, and the rejection rate is 75%. The rejection rate before review is 29%, and after review is 35%. This speaks of the scientific rigor of the publications.

Another way to motivate students, not only from the faculty but at a national and international level, is with the space at the RCMV called Voices of Young Researchers, where the investigative works oriented by the professors during their classes are published, with a good writing of the Spanish language, with the structure established by the teacher and that complies with the rubric and good

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score determined by the teacher. Without peer review, all health students have a space that encourages research from the first years of their degree.

In addition, the RCMV has its YouTube channel, which can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbec0jWTsivjLiRJWc4VScg>, whose name is the same as that of the journal, where student videos, courses taught or coordinated by the journal's editorial team, among other types of activities that support research, will be published.

Below are the good practices adopted by the Journal of Medical and Life Sciences to promote Open Science, in addition to promoting, in due time, indexing in the different indexes, catalogs, databases, and directories.

- Open access to articles at no cost to readers.
- Open peer review, where authors and reviewers know each other's names.
- Open data (still working on it).
- Free publication of articles.
- Review and quality control of metadata.
- Public and accessible editorial policies (code of ethics, database use).
- Creative License Commons on the website and in the pdf of the articles.
- DOI for each article (expected 2025).
- Orcid of each author.
- Articles are available in formats (pdf, html, xml, epub).
- Indexations that promote good practices (due to the short life of the journal, it is impossible to access the most extensive databases, indexes, and catalogs since most require two years or more to be published; however, we are in LatinRev (Latin American Network of Academic Journals in Social Sciences and Humanities, endorsed by FLACSO), Free Medical Journals of Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Academia.edu, Google Scholar).
- Promotes preservation of archives with the PKP-PN.
- Collaborative work with other journals (friendly journals in Cuba and Chile whose links are accessible on the platform and a collaboration agreement with the Peruvian Academy of Doctors).
- Publication in several languages (full text in Spanish and English, title and summary in French).
- International editorial team.
- Editorial policies that encourage transparency, as well as complete and honest information, where authors and reviewers must know what is expected of them.

Another strategy to increase visibility is creating a republication space, where after requesting the relevant authorizations from both authors and editors, they can be published in summary form on the journal's website. Also, the journal's annual printed version has the five most-read articles during the previous year. In this way, the aim is to reach that academic community that does not know about the journal or what is published in it for some reason, such as not having access to technology

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or difficulty reading in digital format. Giving a copy to published authors can also motivate them to continue on the publication path.

The journal's editorial team has taught courses nationally and internationally aimed at authors and reviewers who can collaborate with it. They have been introduced to the journal, the management of the platform, and other essential aspects of both activities.

Furthermore, to complement the work of the Coordination of Graduation Projects, the coordination that is now analyzed is in charge of the Research Induction Course for the student's thesis advisors, which allows everyone to follow the instructions and the protocol, and thesis guide, approved by the faculty board of directors, regarding the research process. Three editions of research induction courses for thesis advisors have been developed, with 20 participants in the first edition, 19 in the second, and 21 in the third.

As also part of the work of this coordination, the Doctorate in Sciences of Medical Education program (aimed at professionals committed to contributing to science with new knowledge, supported by the epistemic bases thereof, with its laws, principles and foundations) and the Master's Degree in Research applied to Health Sciences (includes contents such as biostatistics, clinical and epidemiological research, comparison of diagnostic means, research in health systems and services, clinical trial, survival studies, sampling, qualitative research, project management, among others).

It is considered that Health Sciences focus on general health and well-being. In that case, it is understood that they cover a broad spectrum of health-related disciplines such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, public health, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, nutrition, and psychology, among other related areas such as health technologists in their broad spectrum. It is then understood that both postgraduate training programs are vital for these professionals. Classes can be in virtual or hybrid mode, always with international teachers. In both programs, they can be certified.

The first Congress of Science and Technological Innovation is planned for August 1st and 2nd, in virtual mode, with speakers and exhibitors from both national and international levels.

Among the challenges that the Research Unit must currently face are:

- Adequately implement the Ethics-Bioethics Committee.
- Achieve 80% of the defended theses to achieve a grade higher than 80 points and with a high methodological and content quality.
- Have students demonstrate adequate mastery of scientific writing.
- Create an ever-growing scientific research and publication culture ranging from students, professors, and advisors to faculty managers.
- Achieve at least one original article from each graduation thesis to be published.
- The RCMV must index DOAJ, Latindex, Scielo, Scopus, and Web of Science, among other bases, indexes, catalogs, and directories, to achieve greater visibility before its five years of life.

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- Achieve a high rate of citations according to indicators established internationally.
- Have the DOI of the journal to identify each article uniquely.
- Obtain financing to pay journal reviewers.
- Be tireless monitors of the quality of what is published.
- Obtain sufficient funding to carry out research projects.
- Obtain a license for Artificial Intelligence anti-plagiarists and bibliographic managers.
- Attract and retain qualified and talented personnel to develop and advise research.
- Establish and maintain effective collaborations with other research institutions.
- Develop impact indicators, collaborate with stakeholders, and continually evaluate results.
- Foster international collaborations, participate in global projects, and promote the internationalization of research.
- Develop the proposed congress in a coherent, organized, and annual manner.
- Successfully implemented the proposed master's and doctorate, with great acceptance by the professionals involved.
- Delineate research areas for the faculty and lines within them, with a researcher or group responsible for carrying out research in this regard and integrating students into the team.

DISCUSSION

Research is essential for the generation of new knowledge in various academic disciplines. The Research Unit facilitates the exploration and discovery of innovative ideas contributing to the existing knowledge body. Research strengthens the academic quality of a university by providing a solid foundation for teaching. Teachers and researchers can integrate research findings into their curricula, enriching students' educational experiences.

Participation in research projects allows teachers, researchers, and students to develop advanced skills, research techniques, and analytical competencies. This contributes to the professional and personal growth of the individuals involved. Research is a key driver of innovation and technological advancement. Universities that carry out research often contribute to developing new technologies, methods, and approaches with practical applications in society.

A strong research presence enhances the university's reputation nationally and internationally. Institutions recognized for research excellence attract prestigious academics, talented students, and opportunities for collaboration. University research often addresses social problems and challenges. The findings and solutions derived from research can directly impact improving the quality of life and solving societal problems.

The Research Unit can be crucial in obtaining external funding through grants, donations, and research contracts. These financial resources can support research, infrastructure, and institutional development projects. Research encourages collaboration between various disciplines and

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departments within a university. This leads to more holistic approaches to addressing complex problems that require knowledge from multiple areas.

A weakness that the UI presents is that the Ethics-Bioethics Committee has not yet been created consistently. However, due to the importance of the topic, the relevant role of compliance with ethics must be instilled throughout the investigative process. This includes ethics in scientific publishing and academic and scientific plagiarism. In reality, researchers in the health field are expected to comply with legal and ethical regulations, giving importance to considerations such as evaluating the balance between risks and benefits, obtaining informed consent, and maintaining confidentiality. ²

The Declaration of Helsinki of the 2013 World Medical Assembly emphasizes in its ethical principles that the research protocol must be submitted to the respective Research Ethics Committee before starting the study, seeking its evaluation, comments, and approval. This is because a committee of this type's "mission is to promote, favor, coordinate and control clinical medical research in human beings by current regulations." ² Achieving it would be quite a challenge.

Regarding the number of articles, the editorial team is not satisfied because the aspiration is to publish a minimum of 60 articles per year. During the first year, this was not achieved. However, the strategy adopted by the journal to make it more visible and to encourage students to publish the results of their research must allow this figure to be reached for volume 2.

A publication by Ganga-Contreras and collaborators in 2022 on "Causes that lead to rejection of scientific articles in Latin American scientific journals" ³ found rejection rates of 40% in a Peruvian journal, 85% in a journal from Ecuador and another from Mexico, 80% in a Venezuelan. As can be seen, the RCMV's rejection rates are in that range, which is very encouraging and speaks of the scientific rigor with which it works.

Research results that support the growing participation of students in research and scientific publication activities are some such as that of Piñera-Castro in 2022 on "Evaluation of student scientific production at the University of Medical Sciences of Havana", ⁴ Castro-Rodríguez in 2020 related to "Theses supported and published by students of health sciences in Peru", ⁵ among other authors. ^{6,7}

It is a mistake to think that research should be elitist or individualistic or about people who comb their hair with gray hair. In today's world, with the dizzying advance of science and technology, where knowledge ages at great speed, where what was true yesterday is false, research is becoming a collective process, not an individual one.

Another mistake is to believe that publishing can only be done in high-impact journals, many of which must be through payment. It is a mistake to think that only journals indexed in Scopus are valid or the only ones with scientific rigor. It is false to believe that open-access journals do not publish quality content, and these should be the most valued since the staff who work there are so motivated by passion and love for research.

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It is important to resume the role of universities in research as one of the most significant sources of the creation of new knowledge.⁸⁻¹⁰ It is also where the existing knowledge is applied.¹¹ Young people are individuals who constantly need to create, who experience an urgency to forge their own story, express restlessness, and share their energy and passion with others. They are characterized by their perseverance towards a goal even after facing several setbacks. They believe they have the power to impact the world and venture to make it happen.

That is why the Research Unit of the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences, in its journal, trusts in their potential and how much they have to contribute to this process and bets on them. A great example is the theses of Nutrition students, where they not only content themselves with identifying and analyzing the problems of social practice but also look for possible solutions and leave their legacy. This is demonstrated by the articles that have received the most readings during the year. Therefore, this is a space for young people from all latitudes.

CONCLUSIONS

Once the analysis of the functioning of the UI in its three coordinations was carried out, encouraging results were found, and the challenges to be faced in the medium and long term were identified.

FINANCING

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest are declared.

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LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION FOR PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION

To the editorial committee of the Journal of Medical and Life Sciences

Title of the article: Results and Challenges of the Research Unit of the Faculty of Medical and Life Sciences, May 2022-December 2023

Name of the author(s): Miday Columbié Pileta

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