

KNOWLEDGEMENT ABOUT PHARMACOLOGY IN A COLOMBIAN COHORT OF MEDICAL DOCTORS. Luis F. Cifuentes, José J. Lopez(*). Universidad de los Andes (Facultad de Medicina) y Universidad Nacional (Facultad de Farmacia), Bogotá (Colombia).

Introduction Each year thousands of new students arrive at universities throughout Colombia (South America) to study medicine, producing more than 2,000 medical doctors annually at 57 medical schools. The only degree offered is MD and the teaching approach employed by these medical schools is predominantly traditional. The purpose of this study was to analyze the basic knowledge in pharmacology in a group of Colombian doctors and to highlight weaknesses and strengths. **Methodology** Assessment of pharmacology knowledge was determined as follows: fifteen multiple-choice question examinations testing the important areas of pharmacology (pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacovigilance) were administered through a web page and sending to a data base during the months of May-July 2006. Seventy seven medical doctors from the whole country participated in this study. **Results** Only four of the fifteen questions have correct responses in 50%, the average of correct answers was 45%. The low responses were highest in topics related to adjustment of doses, administration of drugs, follow up of the patient, adverse event reactions and therapeutic index. **Discussion** This result of the study makes a first approach in a Colombian cohort about the low knowledge in basic concepts of pharmacology not only to general practitioners but also specialized doctors. Therefore a high weaknesses in the field of pharmacology is a matter on concern especially in topics related for the daily practice such as rational of drugs, dose schedule, follow up treatment and drug safety.