

# The “Jose Felix Patiño” research award, a promoter of nutritional research in Colombia

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Scientific investigation spurs from the need of human beings to find explanation to observed phenomena; it is a practice inherent to the curiosity of humans to learn from their environment and improve it, as well as achieving a certain knowledge which allows him to be ready to act. And although there is currently a post-modern critique to science with respect to the values upon where new knowledge is developed, in fact scientific investigation has evolved from the classical model inspired in Aristotle<sup>(1,2)</sup> to a model in which knowledge must be proven, validated, refuted, communicated and replicated. Scientific research is seen as a country's innovation and development engine, the generator of knowledge and the thrive of scientific and economic competitiveness in a region. Therefore, the countries with a higher budget for science, investigation and development have the higher rates of invention. A clear example of this in Latin America is Brazil, where the spending in Research and Development was of U\$ 23.003 million in 2015, which represent 1.27% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and an innovation rate of 3.59 a number not vary far from countries like

Korea during that same year (innovation rate of 4). In Colombia the spending in science and technology in 2006 was of U\$ 241.62 million, a number which grew to U\$ 1.140,18 million in 2014 (0.3 of the GDP) with a decrease to U\$ 838.4 million in 2015 (0.271% of the GDP) which meant an invention rate of 0.67.<sup>(3,4)</sup>

Although 70% of research in Colombia is developed in universities, the situation for research in Colombia calls for incentives which motivate healthcare professionals to start or continue their research projects and make them public within the scientific community. That is why the Asociación Colombiana de Nutrición Clínica, within the objectives contemplated in article 7 of its statutes, has supports research in topics related with nutrition and nutritional support for 29 years, through the Jose Felix Patiño research award. In 2018, with the participation of 44 free projects, undergraduate works and investigation protocols we reached the biggest number of applicants in the history of the award. Well known researchers as well as starting undergraduate students and researchers from various institutions in the country are a confirmation of the

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increasing interest of the scientific community interested in nutrition topics, and give a knowledge input to this area. The support to researchers and the publishing of acquired knowledge both in research protocol development in nutrition and clinical nutritional practice are the basic pillars of this effort. The future of the José Félix Patiño research award is promising and the support given by the Asociación Colombiana de Nutrición Clínica is already harvesting results.

## **Bibliography**

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