

ABSTRACT

Modern Training Programs within Latin America

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In the past decade, Ian Donald Schools have been developed throughout Latin America as a means to coordinate and develop the state of obstetrics and gynecology in the region. The platform allows to develop strong linkages between the best centers in the different countries, and thus allows for more rapid knowledge diffusion and innovation. Nowadays, the subcontinent counts with ten Ian Donald Schools, spread throughout the continent. While most are in the Southern cone (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia), Central America counts with schools in Mexico, Honduras and Nicaragua, and there is one in the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. Soon, Venezuela and Guatemala will also be part of the Ian Donald family.

Given the nature of the school, we have focused on building strong linkages within the countries, and also between the different schools. As such, in these years we have done many Ian Donald courses in almost all the countries, with a very good participation rate and a very high level of teaching. At the same time, we have also carried out pre-congress training courses on basic ultrasound technique and more specialized ones on ecocardiography during National Congresses of Gynecology and Obstetrics in the region, and in 2013, during FIGO's Latino-American Congress.

Overall, the strategy started by making the school known and developing its reach throughout the continent. Then, our approach evolved to make ultrasound technique available at different levels in all the countries and increase cooperation and coordination of the work carried by the different schools. To this aim, in 2013, Ian Donald Schools in Latin America did their first joint course, with all directors taking part on the event. This joint course that took place in Asuncion, Paraguay, allowed

to develop a common forum for the development of ultrasound throughout the subcontinent. During this event, the directors got the possibility to discuss and create ultrasound guidelines for their own countries, as well as to decide on upcoming courses. At the same time, the idea of starting a common prenatal database for all Latin American countries was decided, to share experiences and advance solutions.

Currently, the strategy of the Schools in Latin America is to strengthen the collaboration and solidify the positive results. For this, we are ready to start the Fellowship Program in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, in partnership with the Croatian University. All directors are currently collaborating to achieve this first exchange program, with the idea of replicating it—if successful to other countries, likely the Dominican Republic. Also, a second Latin American Ian Donald Schools joint course is being planned for early 2014. Indeed, given the plurality of countries and the common problems throughout the subcontinent, it is highly important that the schools work on a coordinated way, and create the work plan together. The target for now will continue to be the integration and enhanced cooperation between the schools and specialized centers in all of the countries. By joining forces, we believe Ian Donald Schools will contribute the most to modern training and finding results-oriented solutions in Latin America.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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