Medical movement in Mexico. At 50 years. Open file

José Luis Sandoval Gutiérrez
Pulmonologist-intensivist, Head of Critical Areas, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Respiratorias "Ismael Cosío Villegas", Ciudad de México, Mexico

Gutiérrez-Samperio makes an excellent narration of the movement that was called “white” half a century ago, led by doctors and other health workers, mainly nurses.

It is important to review the achievements and limitations of this movement. For example, a resident who currently studies a specialty has institutional, academic and professional recognition at the completion of his/her training, in addition to having an economic-support grant (probably insufficient) and programmed vacation days.

There are many pending challenges, such as employment and economic security at specialty graduation, as well as a national medical association that affiliates all physicians regardless of their specialty, as doctors in Argentina and the USA have, for example. It is astonishing that most students in faculties and schools ignore that the movement existed, considering it was the largest professional manifestation that has occurred in contemporary Mexico. Due to a recent problem at the Mexican Institute of Social Security in Jalisco, there was a protest march in several cities of country, embracing the slogan “I am 17”, as there was another previously organized by nurses for issues about labor classification against their interests.

There are many subjects that have to be mentioned about this movement. The Institute for Juridical Research and the National Academy of Medicine held corresponding sessions to address this topic.

There is a need to have more books and articles available reflecting on this professional manifestation.

One TV journalist mentioned, when addressing the “I am 17” march, that “since we all are going to need a doctor in life, the better they are, the better they will treat us”.

Therefore, when speaking about medical rights, we are consequently talking about patient rights, which ennobles healthcare professionals’ demands.

References
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