



Research in Medicine

Theoretical and Practical Foundations Biostatistical Elements

by RICARDO J. ESPER and ROGELIO A. MACHADO
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Two premises may simplify the need for a piece of work of this kind. Firstly, the scarce inclination towards research –especially basic research– on the part of all the schools of medicine in our country, which are dedicated almost exclusively to training clinicians and surgenos (to fulfill the demands of immigration growth); conversely, the importance that this tendency be reverted as soon as possible. Secondly, the difficulties physicians face –difficulties wisely pointed out by Guillermo Jaim Etcheverry in the Preface– in working on their theses, and in getting fully acquainted with the conventional mechanisms of scientific research. This book deals in deep with this issue.

Apart from reviewing most of the topics about research and writing of theses and monographs, and dedicating half the book to biostatistics, important details –in some cases, smallest details– of all these topics are included. Here is an example: when the authors refer to the oral communication of knowledge, it is recommended that excessive well-groomed clothes are avoided so as not to distract the audience. The aim of revealing the oratory secrets is not for the encoder to be opinionant, but to make the message more useful.

I will point out the big issues that the book covers, each of them completed by explanatory chapters: “Research in the Field of Medicine”, “Communication of the Results”, “Modern Developments in the Medical Sciences”, “Knowledge Analysis and its Validation Tools”, “The Physician as Teacher and Public Com-

municator”, and “Biostatistical Elements”; this last one, by Rogelio A. Machado, covers –as I said above– half of the book. The chapters that structure the work in the second subhead include the following: “The Scientific Magazine: Editorial Criteria for the Evaluation of Medical Articles”, “What is a Scientific Monograph and How is it Done?”, “What is a Doctoral Thesis?”, and “The Oral Communication in Scientific Research. A Tool to Pass on Knowledge”. This way, I try to provide the reader with the precise tools to understand how detailed the book is.

Due to the few physicians who doctorate, in comparison with the biochemists and the professionals from humanistic careers, and due to the need that they get the doctorate, this book –with the essential guidelines to look for information and to follow the structure of a thesis– has academic relevance for the young professionals. To do a doctorate thesis is not an easy task; however, it fulfills with satisfaction and provides an indispensable management for the future training.

I think Ricardo J. Esper and Rogelio A. Machado, with their own experiences and capacity to gather important co-authors, have hit the nail on the head and produced an extremely useful manual. The beautifully-produced edition of the work by *La Prensa Médica Argentina* is noteworthy.

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