

# The Role of Health Residencies for Cancer Control

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*O Papel das Residências em Saúde na Área de Controle do Câncer*

El Papel de las Residencias Sanitarias en el Ámbito del Control del Cáncer

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Cancer is an important problem of public health demanding integrated attention from specialist professionals and non-specialized teams in order to reduce the incidence and mortality and increase survival and quality of life of oncologic patients<sup>1</sup>. Considering the advances in treatment, cancer remains the second main cause of mortality among Brazilians<sup>2</sup>. Globally, on the other hand, it is observed an important and significant increase of a certain population survivor of cancer which widens the necessities of follow up and healthcare<sup>3</sup>. This entire scenario demands improvement of the educational process in the formation of professionals to work in oncology.

In Brazil, there is a significant demand for qualification of professionals to work in cancer care network<sup>4</sup>. The health residency programs in the area of cancer control are being considered the most appropriate model to meet this gap<sup>5</sup>. There are two types of health residency programs in the country. The medical residency programs contribute strongly for the formation of physicians that act directly in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients as in the following specialties: pathology, endoscopy, nuclear medicine, clinical oncology, radiotherapy, oncologic surgery, hematology, mastology, pediatric oncology, bone marrow transplantation and palliative care. The health professional residency programs in the modality multiprofessional or uniprofessional focused to oncology can promote the formation of social workers, biologists, biomedicine professionals, dentists, physical education, nurses, pharmacists, medical-physicists, physiotherapists, phonoaudiologists, dieticians, psychologists, sanitarians and occupational therapists.

Regardless of the modality, the health residency programs in the area of cancer control should offer to the professionals, in addition of technical skills, essential for the professional performance, knowledge about ethical, epidemiologic, economic, humanistic, legal, social and organizational aspects related to cancer prevention and control<sup>6</sup>. In this respect, these educational programs are able to provide resources for the professionals to act in oncology care delivery, management, teaching and research within an interdisciplinary perspective.

During more than 70 years of life, the Brazilian Journal of Cancerology (RBC) has been an important space to divulge the scientific production about health residency programs in the area of cancer control or articles prepared by students during the residency period from every country region. These articles help to identify the improvement that must be implemented to broaden the qualification of the programs and when they mirror the reality of comprehensive cancer care in the multiple Brazilian scenarios.

In this direction, the present thematic edition aimed to emphasize the scientific contribution produced during the residency programs, strengthening the debate about teaching as the driving force of the knowledge for competent action in the area of cancer control and prevention.

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