

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pediatric Emergency Resident/Fellow Grant

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Dear colleague with an interest in Pediatric Emergencies,

We are Guillem Brullas Badell (fourth-year Pediatric resident at Hospital Sant Joan de Déu de Barcelona, Spain) and Natalia Lopera Múnera (second-year Pediatric Emergency fellow at Hospital Pediátrico Niños de Acosta Ñu, San Lorenzo, Paraguay). In 2024 we received the “Pediatric Emergency Resident/Fellow Grant” awarded by Sociedad Española de Urgencias Pediátricas (SEUP) and by Sociedad Latinoamericana de Emergencias Pediátricas (SLEPE) respectively, in conjunction with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. This grant has provided us with a great opportunity for personal and professional growth, and it could do the same for you.

Thanks to this grant, we experienced two valuable opportunities for our training in Pediatric Emergencies. The first was attending the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, in Ohio, USA, as observers for one week. During this time, we had the chance to learn about their medical protocols and their way of working, in some incredible spaces, with patient and family-centered care dynamics, even in moments of greatest medical urgency. One of the things that impressed us the most was their critical patient stabilization rooms and the organization within them, where despite the high number of people involved, everyone had a clearly defined role and functioned in a coordinated manner, ensuring the best patient care; we noticed how this organized and structured way of working was maintained even in rare situations, thanks

to constant simulations and subsequent debriefings. This experience provided us with new knowledge and ideas about Pediatric Emergencies that we could later share in our hospitals.

The second experience was attending the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellows Conference in Cleveland (Ohio, USA), which featured high-level presentations and workshops by leading global figures in Pediatric Emergencies. The focus of this conference is directed towards training in non-theoretical knowledge and skills such as leadership, communication, empathy, and teamwork, among others. These skills are difficult to learn individually but are just as important as theoretical knowledge to ensure optimal patient care in critical environments like Pediatric Emergency departments. Through the various conferences, we were able to understand Pediatric Emergencies as a comprehensive subspecialty, from which educational, collaborative research, global health, management, and patient advocacy projects can be developed. Additionally, during this conference, we had the opportunity to present the research studies we were developing in our hospitals in small groups of fellows and attendings and receive feedback on how to improve certain aspects of the project. We both received relevant suggestions to apply to our research projects and achieve better results.

Thanks to this experience, we were also able to learn about the training programs in Pediatric Emergencies, both in pediatric residency and fellowship. In these programs, we found structured curriculum with extensive theoretical-practical content and simulation, but additionally, with significant emphasis on communication, leadership, and teamwork skills. We also had the chance to interact with many Pediatric Emergency fellows from all over the United States, with whom we exchanged enriching experiences regarding our work and training.

Annually, there is one grant available from SEUP and another from SLEPE. The requirements for both societies to apply for the grant are being enrolled in a training program directed towards Pediatric Emergencies (during residency,

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fellowship or master), having a research study in its initial phase, a minimum level of English (C1), and availability to travel to the United States on the agreed dates for the conference.

In summary, we would like to encourage all those professionals in training who, like us, are considering a path in Pediatric Emergencies to apply for this grant, as it will surely be a very enriching experience.