

Editorial

Scientific Initiation Fellowships Institutional Program

The “Programa Institucional de Bolsas de Iniciação Científica”- PIBIC [Scientific Initiation Fellowships Institutional Program] was established by Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico [National Council for Scientific and Technological Development] (CNPq), a foundation linked to the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT). The program is dedicated to encouraging scientific activities and sponsor potential new talents among undergraduate students, offering them the opportunity to discover and practice how science is produced and how knowledge is acquired. Moreover, the PIBIC program allows the reduction of the time spent by graduate students to achieve their master and PhD degrees by incorporating data obtained during this period into their thesis.

The A.C. Camargo Cancer Hospital received the first PIBIC fellowships in August 2003, and this allowed us to accept 10 students involved in Clinical and Basic Research projects, these last conducted also at The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. PIBIC advisors are all from the A.C. Camargo Cancer Hospital Graduate Program. In 2004, we were allowed to have 15 students and this number increased to 30 by 2005, permitting us to bring more students from different São Paulo's private and public institutions. These students are evaluated every three months in a meeting organized by our internal Advisors Committee. At that time, they have to present in a written text and also orally all data obtained in the previous period. Besides a rigorous control of the project evolution, these meetings intend to make students able to organize and formally present their data. Once a year an A.C. Camargo Cancer Hospital Meeting for the PIBIC

program is organized and PIBIC projects are presented to all Hospital members Hospital including Physicians, Resident Physicians, PhD students and advisors. This activity is also evaluated by an external Advisors Committee representing CNPq.

The PIBIC program established three years ago allowed us to have five students from basic research joining the A.C. Camargo Cancer Hospital's graduate program in science. Fortunately, two of them have just finished their PhD course. We expect this number to increase in the next years since at least 50% of our students are in Medical School and they should enter the residency program before being admitted to a PhD program. Additionally, we also formed 26 students that were certainly ready to join any research group in Brazil.

It is a pleasure for me to introduce the six selected articles presented in this issue of APPLIED CANCER RESEARCH. They were all conducted by PIBIC students at the Pelvic Surgery Department, the Radiotherapy Department, the Pathology Department, Voice, Speech and Swallowing Rehabilitation Department and the Research Center and express the excellent quality of the scientific work that has been conducted in the A.C. Camargo Cancer Hospital. Finally, I would like to acknowledge CNPq for the opportunity of making young students know the best way to conduct high quality science.

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