

Medical Education & Clinical Practice: a new Latin American journal

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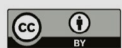
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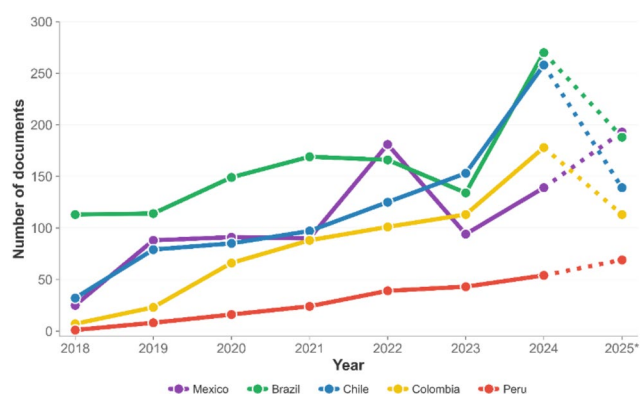
Scientific research and the evidence it generates are fundamental to improving global health, reducing inequities, and fostering social and economic development [1]. However, despite the sustained growth in scientific output, the World Health Organization has noted a persistent gap between the knowledge produced and its effective application in clinical practice and public health [2]. This disconnect is particularly evident when research findings fail to reach, in a timely manner, those who design policies, manage health services, or provide direct patient care. In response, knowledge translation, which encompasses the dissemination, adoption, and implementation of evidence, has emerged as a key strategy to narrow this gap [3]. Effective dissemination requires the use of appropriate channels and carefully planned strategies to ensure that biomedical research findings are understood, valued, and applied [4]. In this context, scientific journals serve as strategic platforms for strengthening the dissemination of evidence that is relevant to decision-makers and the broader public.

In recent years, Peru has experienced sustained growth in its scientific output, largely driven by structural reforms aimed at strengthening the university system and the national research ecosystem. The enactment of the University Law (Law No. 30220) in 2014 and the institutional licensing process led by the National Superintendence of Higher University Education (SUNEDU, in Spanish) established new standards for academic quality and positioned scientific production as a central pillar of teaching and research activities [5]. These reforms were aligned with national science and technology policies and with efforts to reinforce the national research system, thereby consolidating mechanisms for researcher recognition, research integrity, and funding [6]. Collectively, these measures contributed to strengthening universities' research capacities and enhancing institutional visibility, particularly in the field of health [7].

In this context, Peruvian biomedical journals have become key platforms for the dissemination of scientific knowledge in health, advancing a sustained process of editorial improvement aimed at enhancing their visibility and international positioning. To date, 11 Peruvian biomedical journals are indexed in Scopus [8], underscoring the country's commitment to the dissemination of medical knowledge and its socially responsible application. Achieving indexation reflects a process of continuous learning, sustained commitment, and scientific integrity on the part of the Peruvian research community that supports these academic communication platforms.

From the perspective of medical education, one of the most relevant thematic areas within the health sciences, Peru demonstrates limited scientific output, with only 69 articles indexed in Scopus in 2025, a figure substantially lower than that of countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia, whose publication counts range from 113 to 193 articles. This disparity among countries has remained pronounced over the past seven years (Figure 1). At the regional level, a search of journals simultaneously classified under medicine and education in Scopus and filtered by country affiliation across Latin America identified only two specialized medical education journals currently indexed in Scopus: *Investigación en Educación Médica* (Mexico) and *Revista*

Cubana de Educación Superior (Cuba). It is noteworthy that a third journal, *Seminars in Medical Writing and Education* (Argentina), was delisted from Scopus earlier this month, along with eight other journals from a publishing conglomerate associated with the health field, following the identification of editorial malpractice. Within this context of limited national scientific output and scarce regional representation in high-impact databases, *Medical Education & Clinical Practice* (MECP) emerges as a strategic initiative of the Faculty of Human Medicine (FHM) at the Universidad Científica del Sur in Peru.



*Data were retrieved from Scopus on January 22, 2026.

Figure 1. Trends in scientific output from the five most productive Latin American countries publishing in medical education journals indexed in Scopus (2018-2025).

Note: Data include publications in journals simultaneously classified under the categories “Medicine” and “Education”, filtered by country affiliation across Latin America.

MECP aims to disseminate original national and international contributions in the fields of medical education, clinical simulation, and the various medical specialties linked to the improvement of clinical practice and public health. This editorial initiative is aligned with the institutional mission of the FHM at the Universidad Científica del Sur, which is committed to training professionals with leadership skills, critical thinking, and a strong humanistic vocation. Within this framework, MECP represents a strategic step toward strengthening biomedical research, fostering the engagement of emerging investigators, and reinforcing the institution’s commitment to the dissemination of rigorous scientific knowledge, independently of economic, political, or hierarchical interests, with the goal of achieving standards of excellence and progressively establishing itself as a national and international reference in the field.

Although several medical schools maintain institutional scientific journals, most explicitly emphasize their affiliation with the university that supports them. This represents a key distinction from the MECP proposal,

which was conceived with the intention of building a community among faculty, researchers, and professionals engaged in the development and evaluation of medical education initiatives across the region, fostering a plural and inclusive space for academic exchange.

MECP is a continuous-publication, open-access journal with no article processing charges for authors. Each issue includes original articles, brief original articles, review articles, special articles, study protocols, case reports accompanied by systematic reviews, and scientific and commentary letters. These contributions aim to disseminate current and relevant evidence in medical education and the health sciences, fostering academic exchange and strengthening scientific output. The editorial process adheres to essential standards of scientific quality through the use of the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform and peer review conducted by academic experts with extensive national and international recognition. This framework ensures the transparency, rigor, and traceability required to establish the journal as a reliable and high-level venue for scholarly publication.

Given the composition of a committed and diverse editorial team with experience in journal indexation, together with the support of the University’s Office of the Vice President for Research, which has successfully achieved Scopus indexation for three of the four currently active institutional scientific journals, a clear and realistic pathway can be outlined toward MECP’s inclusion in PubMed Central and Scopus. Accordingly, we invite the Peruvian, Latin American, and global scientific communities to submit their work and to join this academic platform dedicated to advancing medical education, clinical practice, and health research.

Author contributions

RVF: Conceptualization, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review & Editing. PMT: Conceptualization, Visualization, Writing - Review & Editing. The authors assume full responsibility for the content of the manuscript.

Conflicts of interest statement

Percy Mayta-Tristán serves as Director of Medical Education & Clinical Practice (MECP), whereas Rodrigo Vargas Fernández holds the position of Editor-in-Chief of the journal.

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Data availability statement

Not applicable.

Generative Artificial Intelligence use statement

The authors declare that no artificial intelligence was used in any part of the manuscript preparation process.

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