







Launch of the Latin American Journal of Emergency Care

Lançamento do Latin American Journal of Emergency Care

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Launching the Latin American Journal of Emergency Care

JBMEDE has officially transformed into the Latin American Journal of Emergency Care (LAJEC).

Welcome to LAJEC, a journal of the Brazilian Association of Emergency Medicine (ABRAMEDE), endorsed by the Latin American Federation of Emergency Medicine (FLAME) and the Latin American Association for Cooperation in Medical Emergencies and Disasters (ALACED). LAJEC will build on JBMEDE's trajectory to become the first region-wide emergency care peer-reviewed journal in Latin America. As a free access and free-to-publish journal, LAJEC welcomes submissions from researchers with all levels of expertise and accepts articles in any of its three official languages: Portuguese, Spanish, and English. LAJEC seeks to increase academic emergency care capacity in Latin America through scientific publishing, peer-reviewed education, and academic collaboration across the region.

Emergency Care and Scientific Publishing in Latin America

The specialty of emergency medicine is entering its fifth decade in Latin America, with the first formal emergency medicine residency programs established in the 1980s and others gradually emerging throughout the region.¹ Today, only a few countries have not recognized emergency medicine as

a specialty or lack emergency medicine residencies.¹ Despite the growth of the specialty and its training programs, most countries in the region have fewer than one emergency medicine specialist per 100,000 population,¹ and the development and recognition of emergency medicine as a distinct specialty remain uneven across the region, with significant disparities in resources, infrastructure, and training opportunities across countries and regions within countries.¹

A major challenge for the continued development of emergency care capacity in the region is the low output in emergency care research, with Latin America producing only 1.8% of global emergency medicine publications, despite accounting for 8.2% of the world's population.^{2,3} Research in emergency care is vital for advancing evidence-based practices, improving patient outcomes, and informing health system policies. A few countries are further ahead in academic production and have had active emergency medicine journals, similar to JBMEDE in Brazil. Currently we are aware of two indexed emergency medicine journals in the region: Archivos de Medicina de Urgencia de México and Revista de Educación e Investigación en Emergencias. However, most countries do not have an active emergency medicine journal at this time, and before LAJEC, there had not been a region-wide emergency medicine journal in Latin America. From our experience and speaking with colleagues in the region, common barriers Latin American emergency medicine authors face when trying to publish their research in international journals include high article process-

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ing charges, having to submit articles in English, and lack of experience and mentorship when preparing articles for competitive journals. LAJEC emerged in response to and seeks to address these barriers.

From JBMEDE to LAJEC

Like in other countries in the region, emergency medicine is relatively young in Brazil, where it gained recognition as a medical specialty in 2015. The specialty has developed rapidly in the country, with growing numbers of residency programs and residency-trained emergency physicians throughout the country.⁴ JBMEDE was founded in 2021 within the Brazilian Society of Emergency Medicine (ABRAMEDE) to publish emergency care research in the country. JBMEDE achieved four years of continuous publishing of research articles, and from the start established a collaboration with Cochrane for the publication of Portuguese versions of reports from Cochrane Pre-Hospital and Emergency Care.

In 2024, researchers from Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador) and Emory University (United States) approached FLAME about the creation of a Latin American emergency care journal, and conversations with FLAME and Brazilian emergency medicine leaders led to the decision to transform JBMEDE into LAJEC. This transformation synergized JBMEDE's experience and established processes with new international partners and a larger geographical footprint, giving the journal the opportunity to grow in reach and impact.

With the continued financial support of ABRAMEDE and support from a seed grant from the Global Health in Emergency Medicine Section in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory University, the journal underwent a year-long transformation, including a new logo and website. The journal's team also expanded and continues to grow, with a new advisory board with fourteen members from twelve countries and new assistant editors and reviewers from eight countries. LAJEC is now accepting articles in Portuguese, Spanish, and English. Each article is published in its original language, with abstracts in all three languages.

LAJEC's Guiding Principles

LAJEC's vision is a Latin America where high-quality research and innovation drive advancements in emergency care to improve health outcomes for all across the region. LAJEC accepts research articles related to medical care, critical care, education, administration, public health, and public policy, all in the context of urgent, emergent, and prehospital medical care in Latin America. The journal will occasionally make exceptions and publish research conducted outside of Latin America at the discretion of the editorial staff, if deemed of interest to the journal's readership. The journal's mission is to publish high-quality peer-reviewed research on emergency care, enhance authors' scientific writing skills through peer review mentorship, and foster academic emergency care collaboration in Latin America. To pursue its mission, the journal has established three main goals.

The first goal is to provide a platform for publication of peer-

reviewed research relevant to emergency care in Latin America and pursue indexation. The journal seeks to reduce barriers to publication such as language and cost. Furthermore, the journal receives with open arms submissions from researchers with all levels of experience who are willing to work on improving their submissions through the peer-review process.

The journal's second goal is to increase scientific writing capacity among emergency care authors in the region through the peer-review process and other educational initiatives. The journal responds to the needs of Latin American researchers, not only by providing a new platform for publication but by providing approachable and constructive peer-review. The journal will also produce educational content and programming to help increase scientific writing capacity in emergency care in the region.

Lastly, LAJEC's third goal is to foster an academic emergency medicine community for collaboration and mentorship. As the journal grows in content and reach and aided by the journal's social media accounts, it will expose researchers across countries to each other's work, which we expect will open the door for more scientific collaborations and mentorship across countries.

The future

LAJEC looks forward to publishing research from Latin America for Latin America and serving as a welcoming platform for the pioneering researchers in the region. JBMEDE's and LAJEC's partnering organizations, volunteers, reviewers, and editors have been crucial for the journal's development. Please contact us at admeri.acosta@lajec.org if you are interested in supporting or partnering with LAJEC or joining the LAJEC volunteer, reviewer, and editorial teams to help us advance emergency care in Latin America through scientific writing.

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