



## LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR

### Computerization at the University of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río

La Informatización en la Universidad de Ciencias Médicas de Pinar del Río

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#### Mr. Director:

The development of Cuban Public Health would be unthinkable without the application of Science and Innovation. The results of scientific research have a direct impact on medical practice and, consequently, on the improvement of the health status of the population and the quality of services.

Computerization in the health sector, that is, the use of new information and communication technologies (ICT), is one of the key elements of the Strategic Informatization Program of the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP). This program is implemented in stages in the health processes, covering all the institutions belonging to the sector (health care, teaching, research, business).<sup>(1)</sup>

The objective of this program is to increase quality and optimize services to the population through the impact of the use of ICTs. To achieve this goal, work is carried out in an integrated and systematic manner on three fundamental principles: infrastructure, information technology solutions and human resources training and capacity building.

The national informatics platform Red Cuba is managed and administered by Cuban entities, in order to meet the information and service needs of society in sectors such as public health, education, higher education and culture (INFOMED, RIMED, REDUNIV and CUBARTE), which are hosted on high-performance servers that facilitate their potential for use.<sup>(2)</sup>

In this context, it is essential for the University of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río, as an educational and academic institution, to keep pace with the development of the country, and to prepare itself for the informational opening to which we are heading, so internal policies must be drawn up to meet the objectives to be achieved.

In the first place, those related to the improvement of equipment in the teaching and care scenarios to strengthen the training of future professionals, but in a well thought out, coherent, planned way, that responds to the achievement of strengthened computer networks and with all the resources guaranteed.

Secondly, to modify and enrich the teaching programs so that they dedicate more class hours to strengthening the information literacy of our students, professors and workers in general; that is, "to the development of competencies for the identification of information needs and the adequate management of sources and resources of information and knowledge".

To achieve these objectives, the University of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río has designed and implemented in stages an Institutional Informatization Strategy, based on the Informatization policy, which guarantees that all teaching, assistance, research and university extension processes are more agile, transparent and applicable in all teaching scenarios of the province.

### **Conflict of Interest**

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

### **Authors' Contribution**

The author was responsible for conceptualization, formal analysis, project management, writing - original draft, writing - revision and editing. All authors approved the final manuscript.

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