

The training of medical specialists according to the needs of the country

Formación de médicos especialistas de acuerdo a las necesidades del país.

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The system that has been operating in Chile for the training of medical specialists since 1952 is reviewed. The original system was based on the concept of a medical residency and remained under the tuition of the University of Chile Post Graduate School. The financial support came mostly from the National Health Service and the training took place in general hospitals belonging to that Institution. In the last 15 years, other Medical Schools have opened their programs and changes in the structure and financing of medical care have profoundly affected the number and financing of medical residencies, many of which are not funded at all. A thorough study of the number and spectrum of medical specialists that are needed in this country is proposed. Also, measures to increase the number and funding of post graduate training places are encouraged.