

# **The First Experience of a Global Clinical Examination at the National University of Cuyo Medical School**

**Ana María Reta de De Rosas, M.Ed., Celia Bordín' M.D., Ph.D., Norma Carrasco,' M.D., Francisco Eduardo Gago, M.D., Ph.D., Carlos Alberto López Vernengo, M.D., Bernardo Odoriz, M.D., Eduardo Reta, M.D., Ana Lía Vargas, M.D. and María José López, M. Ed.**

Faculty of Medicine, National University of Cuyo  
Río Plomo 871, 5501-Godoy Cruz, Mendoza (5500) ARGENTINA

Phone: (+) 054-0261-439-0834

Fax: (+) 054-0261-449-4047

Email: [amreta@fcm.uncu.edu.ar](mailto:amreta@fcm.uncu.edu.ar)

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## **ABSTRACT**

Started in 1997, the new medical program of the National University of Cuyo, requires that students pass a Global Clinical Exam before graduation, in order to determine if they are able to approach and solve health problems in each of the major medical specialties. This report describes the first experience with this type of exam held at the Medical School by the Global Clinical Exam Committee.

The exam consists of two parts: a written test, including multiple choice questions (MCQ) and case-based open-ended questions, and an oral exam to assess clinical skills using simulated patients. Students must pass both parts of the exam. This examination was first administered in the year 2003 to 59 students, all of who passed the written test, while only two failed the oral exam.

In the written exam, the minimum passing grade was 60 %, using a traditional approach for setting this standard. The scores on the written exam ranged from 68 to 87, with a mean value of 79.1 %. There was significant variation among means when the scores at each specialty were considered separately. The procedure for setting the standard used for the OSCE was the Modified Angoff method. Students were clustered in two groups for the oral exam that was held on two consecutive days. The average score was 54 % for the first group and 61 % for the second. The overall scores ranged from 44 % to 69 %. The correlation was high when considering the score for each station.

This experience demonstrated that this medical school is able to implement a global clinical exam, despite the complexity implied. Most of the students showed that they had achieved the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for graduation. The statistical analysis of the results oriented the Committee regarding how to increase validity and reliability of the assessment tools.

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