

# Aspectos Históricos de la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad Anáhuac

L'Gamiz-Matuk A.

*Profesor de la Universidad Anáhuac desde 1976 al 2020.*

En aquel inicio de la Universidad Anáhuac en 1964, ya se vislumbraba su crecimiento y la incorporación de una escuela relacionada con el área de la salud, sin embargo es en 1975 que el Padre Faustino Pardo en esos momentos y desde su inicio Rector de la Universidad Anáhuac, cristaliza la idea y se abre la Escuela de Medicina otorgando la Dirección al Dr. Aurelio Pérez Teuffer, quien tomó el cargo en ese 15 de agosto acompañado de entusiastas alumnos/as que iniciaron las labores señalando que desde el principio se visualizaba el éxito de esta misión.

El Padre Pardo realizó la designación del sucesor y es en 1977 que el Dr. Víctor Espinosa de los Reyes, aceptando gustosamente la Dirección de la Escuela, que en ese momento ocupaba el cargo de Director de Planeación del Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS) y Director del Hospital México.

El Dr. Espinosa se fortalecieron los cimientos de la escuela con la incorporación de distinguidos/os médicos mexicanos como catedráticos y la apertura de campos clínicos de gran reconocimiento.

Un aspecto a destacar son las tesis y los exámenes profesionales que se iniciaron en esta época y fueron motivo de grandes satisfacciones, ya que el examen oral era con hasta 9 sinodales, pero las y los egresados han demostrado en la práctica profesional su gran valía.

Después de 8 años de Director el Dr. Espinosa en 1983 deja el cargo sucediéndolo el Dr. Héctor Mondragón Castro, emitente ginecólogo y con gran sensibilidad humana, lo que le permitió tener una identificación con el alumnado y profesorado de esa época, en la que se decide cambiar de institución certificadora incorporándose entonces a la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

En 1984 el Padre Ricardo Sada, con grandes ideas, es el cuarto Rector de la Universidad Anáhuac que ante esa positiva publicidad, crece de manera significativa el número de aspirantes en especial para estudiar Medicina, convirtiéndose en una institución muy reconocida en el ámbito nacional e internacional ya que varios son los alumnos/as de origen extranjero que se inscribieron durante su periodo.

Una crisis importante de esa etapa fue el Sismo de 1985 en la Ciudad de México, ya que la participación del profesorado y alumnado en las acciones de rescate y atención de las personas afectadas fue indescriptible con una pasión y compromiso insuperables.

Esa labor se ha heredado y a la fecha siempre que existe una conflagración las y los estudiantes de medicina siempre están dispuestos a cooperar. Seguramente que esos ejemplos son las raíces de las misiones médicas y las prácticas comunitarias que hoy se realizan de manera permanente. El Dr. Mondragón adquiere una enfermedad cardíaca que posteriormente le llevaría a su fallecimiento por lo que en 1992 se le realiza una gran ceremonia de despedida con muestras de afecto de toda la comunidad escolar.

Es al mismo tiempo la fecha en que se inicia la etapa del Dr. José Kutzy Porter quien toma posesión en el auditorio de Rectoría, que se encontraba pletórico de alumnos/as para dar la bienvenida al ilustre médico mexicano, quien llegaba después de haber dirigido

el Hospital General de México y de ser Presidente de la Academia Mexicana de Medicina.

Aspecto importante que incorpora a nuestra Escuela, es el liderazgo en los fundamentos éticos de la práctica profesional, realizando el primer Congreso de Humanismo, que trascendió a nivel nacional e internacional, convirtiéndose la Escuela de Medicina en el punto de referencia para el desarrollo de la Bioética, tanto así que fue el cimiento de la hoy Facultad de Bioética de nuestra Universidad.

En 1996 después de muchos esfuerzos a todos los niveles de la Universidad, se inaugura el edificio de la hoy Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, equipándola con los mejores equipos e instalaciones de la época. Fue indudable el gran avance que permitió colocar a la Escuela de Medicina como de las mejores en Latinoamérica. En esta etapa ingresa a nuestra Universidad como Director de la Escuela de Medicina el distinguido cirujano y humanista Dr. Tomás Barrientos Fortes

Que de inicio le toca la Certificación de la Escuela en 1999, recibiendo la visita de estrictos verificadores, que excépticos no podían imaginar la calidad de nuestra escuela y que al constatarlo otorgaron de manera inmediata la codiciada certificación.

## **Estableciendo como misión de la Facultad**

“Facilitar el proceso de formación y desarrollo de médicos que por su excelente preparación profesional y cultural de nivel internacional, por su profunda formación humana y moral inspirada en los valores perennes del humanismo cristiano, y por su genuina conciencia social, sean líderes de acción positiva que promuevan el auténtico desarrollo del ser humano y la sociedad”. El año 2003 destaca en nuestra historia ya que es la fecha en que regresa a la Universidad hoy como presbítero, hoy como Rector el Padre Jesús Quirce Andrés, encariñado por siempre con la Universidad Anáhuac, conector de la misma, dinámico y con un amplio compromiso ante la institución que incluye por lo tanto al área de la salud.

Al Dr. Tomás Barrientos le toca la recertificación de la escuela en el 2004, la del 2009 y la recientemente adquirida en 2013, que se logró con las más altas calificaciones.

Muy importante es el logro en la institución de la Escuela en Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud en donde hoy confluyen las licenciaturas de Médico Cirujano, Odontología, Nutrición, Rehabilitación y la más reciente en Biomédica.

En este periodo se incorpora formalmente el posgrado con la Maestría en Nutrición así como el Doctorado de la misma área, la Maestría en Ciencias de la Salud y la de Administración de Servicios de Salud.

El futuro es esperanzador, muchas son las posibilidades y muchos los proyectos en desarrollo que tienen el sustento de una gran cantidad de egresados/as que ocupan el liderazgo en su práctica profesional. De ahí que nuestra visión sea:

La Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud se ha concebido como una entidad formadora de recursos humanos en Ciencias de la Salud que logrará desarrollar, en los contextos nacional e internacional, profesionistas con un gran compromiso social y ético basado





en los altos valores del humanismo cristiano y con la capacidad de comprender los avances científicos y tecnológicos como una herramienta más para dar respuesta eficiente y eficaz a los retos que el proceso salud - enfermedad exige.

*It was 1964, and Anahuac University began its activities at a house located in Lomas Virreyes. Rector Faustino Pardo L.C. had already planned to incorporate the major in Medicine as soon as possible; however, it took several years for that to happen. At the behest of the United Nations, the space race ended in 1975 with a joint space mission where an American Apollo module docked with a Soviet Soyuz capsule. In Mexico, precisely on January 3rd, the fourth constitutional article reform came into force, establishing that men and women are equal before the Law. In this framework, the School of Medicine at Anahuac University opened its doors at the Huixquilucan campus in Mexico State. Dr. Aurelio Pérez Teuffer took office as rector on August 15th accompanied by enthusiastic students who were part of the School beginnings. Even though the University faced difficult times, great efforts were made, goals were achieved, and the project was strengthened to ensure a successful future.*

*Father Pardo granted the University direction to Dr. Victor Espinosa de los Reyes, who took the position in 1977. He was the Planning Director at IMSS and the Director of Hospital México at that time. Meanwhile, DIF was founded and Mexico restored diplomatic relations with Spain.*

*Dr. Espinosa consolidated the foundation of the Medicine School as many distinguished Mexican doctors were given teaching positions and highly recognized clinical fields were opened. This allowed the admission of increasing numbers of students whose white coats were seen across the University, especially at the library and cafeteria.*

*The Huixquilucan Campus had a single parking lot shared by students, teachers, and staff; strikingly, the most luxurious cars belonged to the students. You had to be careful that no important visit had come to the rectory because they would turn the central fountain on, and all the cars parked around would get wet and so did those of us who wanted to get into them. There was also a gala dinner for the Medicine School professors on Teacher's Day. The Violines Mágicos de Villafontana played at each gala dinner at the end of the year; it was a very beautiful thing.*

*Dr. Enrique Ruelas Barajas was the University Secretary. He also became Health Subsecretary from 1979 to 1982 and had the greatest impact in our country in terms of medical care quality.*

*After eight years as Director, Dr. Espinoza left his position in 1983 and was succeeded by Dr. Héctor Mondragón Castro, an outstanding gynecologist with great human sensitivity. This characteristic allowed him to be close to the students and teachers of that time. He decided to incorporate the Anahuac University into UNAM.*

*The University facilities building was shared with the School of Communication, so that the Medicine students even had a system to take care of the beautiful students from the neighboring school, who appreciated the gesture. In fact, it was not uncommon for them to attend my classes not to listen to me but to see the medical students. Around that time, Dr. José Juanbels was appointed General Secretary of the School. He built great relationships with the students even in pre-university courses and was responsible for the first certification, remaining a member of the national certification committee for many years.*

*In 1984, Ricardo Sada Derby became the fourth Rector of Anahuac University. During his administration, the number of applicants*

*to the University, especially those looking for a medical degree, grew significantly. The University became then a national and international very recognized institution, because of the several foreign students who enrolled during their period.*

*At that time, many events took place, and perhaps the most shocking of which was the 1985 earthquake, followed by the overwhelming citizens' response. All the School members were organized in brigades seeking to support the injured, collaborate at the General Hospital, the Medical Center or the Juárez Hospital where students had attended lectures and met teachers and residents. The participation of teachers and students in the rescue and care actions was indescribable with an insurmountable passion and commitment. However, our School was also affected because the hospitals could no longer receive students for practical classes after being affected. Dr. Mondragón appealed to private hospitals, which became teaching centers. It was undoubtedly a splendid solution.*

*A co-participation event coordinated by Dr. Roberto Delgado between the University and several international and national organizations created the Coastal Research and Development Center (CIDECO, Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Costero). Among the supporters of the Center were tenor Plácido Domingo who, for many years, worked in favor of those affected by the 1985 earthquake in Tlatelolco, Mexico City, where his relatives had died. A medical care center was established in the municipality of Lerma, where the Medicine School actively helped the communities and even became responsible for vaccinations in the area. The director of the Medicine School was the now prominent vicerector Dr. Sonia Barnette Frías.*

*This cooperative work has been inherited and, to date, whenever there is an emergency, as the 2017 earthquake in Mexico or natural disasters in Haiti, medical students are always willing to cooperate. These examples are surely the roots of the medical missions and community practices that are carried out permanently today. Dr. Mondragón was diagnosed with a heart disease that would lead to his death. In 1992, a great farewell ceremony was held in the University auditorium, which was completely full. There, the entire community paid its respects and showed many expressions of affection.*

*At the same time, the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada, and Mexico was signed and the new Mexican peso, equivalent to 1000 old pesos, was put into circulation. It was then that Dr. José Kuty Porter took office in the University auditorium, which was full of students excited to welcome the illustrious Mexican. Dr. Kuty Porter was the ex-director of the General Hospital of Mexico and president of the Mexican Academy of Medicine.*

*Leadership is a key aspect of Anahuac University and is deeply rooted in the ethical foundations of professional practice. The University held the first congress on Humanities, which transcended nationally and internationally. It has turned the Medicine School into a landmark in the development of bioethics and paved the way for the Bioethics School.*

*In 1996, after many efforts at all levels of the University, the building of the current Health Sciences School was inaugurated with the best equipment and facilities of the time. That great advance allowed to place the School among the best in Latin America.*





*At this stage, the distinguished surgeon and humanist Dr. Tomas Barrientos Fortes was appointed Director of the Medicine School; he began the Certification process of the School in 1999. After the visit of strict verifiers, the School was immediately granted the coveted Certification.*

*The recommendation was made directly by the then rector L.C. Raymond Cosgrave, who saw in Dr. Barrientos an excellent candidate to take over the University.*

*The mission of the Medicine School was "To be a community that drives the education process of doctors who, thanks to their excellent and innovative professional, cultural, human, and moral education inspired by Christian humanistic values and their genuine social conscience, are positive action leaders that promote human and society development."*

*The year 2003 saw Father Jesús Quirce Andrés return to the University as rector. He has a special affection for Anahuac University, knows everything about it, and has a broad commitment to the institution and the Medicine School.*

*The most recent international recertification of the School in 2019 was added to those obtained with the highest qualifications in 2004, 2009, and 2013.*

*Another aspect to highlight is the attendance of four Health Secretaries to the University in collaboration with the Anahuac Public Health Institute (ISPA, Instituto de Salud Pública Anáhuac). The institute is notable for its participation in community actions, mainly in Mexico City and Mexico State, and the development of health research.*

*In this period of time, the master's degree in Health Sciences and Health Services Administration, as well as the Doctorate in Nutrition were added to the graduate program.*

*The incorporation of Dr. Cipriano Sánchez García L.C. to the rectory brought support and significant growth to the Medicine School, while the revenue and contributions to the areas of Nutrition, Dentistry, Rehabilitation, and Biomedicine increased. In 2020, Dr. José Damián Carrillo Ruiz, a neurosurgeon specialized in functional neurosurgery, was appointed director of the Health Sciences School. His great academic, administrative, and research skills made him the perfect candidate to lead the School successfully. The future of the School is very promising, considering the new strategies that have had to be implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain the education standards at the University.*

### **Research in Health Sciences**

*At the beginning, the Medicine School had no formal research area, until the University realized it was already being made by the students in their dissertations. With the return of Dr. Enrique Ruelas to the Medicine School as the Development Secretary in 1984, the Research department was created. I was appointed research coordinator by the then Academic Secretary Dr. Jesús Quirce, while Dr. Ruelas, Dr. Collado, and Dr. Leopoldo Nieto were the committee in charge of authorizing the dissertations. Both Dr. Collado and Dr. Nieto taught theoretical and practical physiology and were highly valued by their students. They were also known for being experts in hypnosis, which several graduates recall being subjected to.*

*In 2001, Dr. Barrientos appointed Dr. José Antonio Ruy Díaz as the research coordinator. The latter suggested three new research lines, registered the research program at CONACYT, and created the first fund from the extension programs profits. The Medicine School signed a collaboration agreement with the Medicine School at UNAM in 2005, with the support of Dr. Ana Flisser and Dr. José Narro's approval, the director of the School at that time. Under the direction of Dr. Tomas Barrientos, the School of Medicine incorporated full-time researchers to reinforce the program and the research done at the School. This was a key element for the transformation of the School into the Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr. José Antonio Ibarra, a neuroscience researcher at IMSS Siglo XXI Medical Center at the time and a faculty member of Anahuac University, was appointed leader of the Faculty research program. On his own initiative, he adapted a laboratory and an animal farm at the then School of Health Sciences to comply with the quality requirements of CONACYT. It should also be noted that he obtained the first contribution from CONACYT to the University. Dr. Ibarra continued promoting the program until, on April 5th 2014, the council approved the creation of Anahuac Health Sciences Research Center (CICSA), a University Research Center based in the Faculty of Health Sciences.*

*Since then, 60 researchers, many of whom are members of the National System of Researchers (SNI, Sistema Nacional de Investigadores), have joined the Research Center. Today, the University publishes more than 35 indexed articles annually, which allows it to have a beneficial impact, be a positive action leader, and remain the top private university in Health research. The future of the Research Center is promising. It seeks to continuously grow by adding four associate researchers per year and ensuring that one of the permanent researchers is accepted in the SNI which, in addition to the effort by the whole Center, will increase the Journal Citation Report (JCR) indicator.*

*Cooperation with international institutions is a priority and increases year by year. In addition, our main short-term goal is to have the first Scientific Ecosystem in the Health Sciences area at Anahuac University.*

*There is no limit to knowledge in the universe  
There is always a destiny in the labyrinth to obtain it  
Humanity must be the beneficiary with its positive aspect  
And research is the hope for always active knowledge*

