

Research and Training in Medicinal Chemistry in South and Central American Countries and sub-Saharan Africa

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SUMMARY. With the proposal to search for universal cooperation in the field of Medicinal Chemistry, the IUPAC group has elaborated a line of work divided into two phases: a) An Awareness of the true situation of Medicinal Chemistry in the different geographic areas of the world; b) A proposal of actions as to achieve more effective cooperation. This first report presents and discusses the actual situation in South and Central America as well as in sub-Saharan Africa.

RESUMEN. "Investigación y Entrenamiento en Química Medicinal en los países Sud y Centroamericanos y en el África sub-Sahara". Con el propósito de investigar las posibilidades de cooperación universal en el campo de la Química Medicinal, el grupo IUPAC de esta disciplina ha elaborado un plan de trabajo dividido en dos fases: a) una toma de conciencia de la verdadera situación de la Química Medicinal en las diferentes áreas geográficas del mundo y b) una propuesta de las acciones a llevar a cabo para lograr una más efectiva cooperación. Este primer informe presenta y discute la situación real en Sud y Centroamérica y en el África sub-Sahara.

Improving the therapeutic and sanitary conditions of different countries is one of the objectives which, at present, receives much attention from diverse organizations and governments throughout the world. However, it is well-known that the therapeutic needs are different from country to country. In some countries, the principal problems are linked to cardiovascular diseases, degenerative diseases and cancer, for example, while in others, infectious diseases are the principal causes of morbidity and mortality. In any of these cases, medicine, as a sanitary tool, is part of the universal heritage, with important implications for sanitary and economic interests. Medicinal Chemists are the health professionals charged with the responsibility of synthesizing new compounds for testing as part of the discovery process for new medicines.

Medicinal Chemistry is a chemistry based discipline, also involving aspects of biological, medical and pharmaceutical sciences. It is concerned with the inven-

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