

POSTERS

AWARENESS CONCERNING PLAGIARISM IN CASE OF FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

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Abstract: The aim of the study was to picture students' self-awareness about plagiarism. Although largely debated in the media, plagiarism is not a curricular subject, so teachers decide if demanding or not ethically correct essays. After completing a 12 year school-system high-school graduates are admitted to the Medical and Pharmacy University Carol Davila depending on their mark at a written, strictly selective examination. 89 first year medical students of the Medical and Pharmacy University Carol Davila answered a questionnaire after composing an essay on a subject of genetics. The questions asked them to specify whether or not they were creative and original in their work, to state on a five point type scale the degree in which they copied, to explain their opinion on totally vs partially plagiarizing a paper and to motivate their action. When asked to write their own opinion in the essay and before answering the questionnaire, plagiarism was never mentioned, so that students could express an unbiased view on the subject. Answers like: "I did not plagiarize, because I inspired myself only from the internet", or that such an action was justified when the subject was considered uninteresting, or that there was too little time to write it, or lack of inspiration or creativity, proved that many students were unaware of the significance of plagiarism. 30% of the questioned students recognized they plagiarized, near to what Scanlon and Neumann reported in 2002 (24.5%). Besides watching the scientific development of the Romanian students, all teachers have to also improve the awareness about plagiarism. A follow-up study could document students' advancement and evolved understanding on the importance of trusting to show their own ideas and work to the world.

Key words: plagiarism, student awareness

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