



## **LIGA DE REUMATOLOGIA E DOENÇAS AUTOIMUNES: PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF CEARÁ ON ITS IMPACT ON MEDICAL EDUCATION**

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### **BACKGROUND**

Academic leagues are common student associations in Brazil. In order to deepen students knowledge in rheumatology, Liga de Reumatologia e Doenças Autoimunes (LiRDA) was founded in 2015 and holds its activities until then, performing clinical research, offering a training opportunity to its members and increasing integration between theory and practice. This report presents the students perception about integrating an academic league into rheumatology in Faculty of Medicine - Federal University of Ceará (UFC) and its results in their medical education.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

16 former and current members were sent an email in June 2019, which was attached a form containing seven affirmations about their participation in the project. Participants were asked to express their degree of agreement with the 7 statements on a scale ranging from 1 to 5, in which 1 corresponded to totally disagree and 5 to totally agree. In addition, they were also asked about their length of participation in the project.

### **RESULTS**

15 of 16 students replied the form. The average time of participation in the project was about 15 months. 93,3 % of the students answered that LiRDA is an important extracurricular project in Faculty of Medicine - UFC. Most of the students agreed that the most important field in the project was the training in rheumatology. Also, all students concurred that rheumatology is an important subject to study in medical graduation. Despite only 46,7% of the students stated the project influences them to specialize in rheumatology, 93,3% referred to be satisfied to participate in the project.

### **CONCLUSION**

Liga de Reumatologia e Doenças Autoimunes, in the view of its current and former participants, is an important project of Faculty of Medicine - UFC. LiRDA plays a role in helping to consolidate the teaching and dissemination of rheumatology along graduation and promoting development of skills within the scope of medical practice.