**PÔSTER DIGITAL**

*Human Resources and Training for Rural Health*

**Distance learning course for Primary Health Care professionals**

Airton Tetelbom Stein. Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre (UFCSPA). airtontstein@gmail.com

Maria Eugenia Pinto. Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde (UFCSPA). meugeniap2@gmail.com

Alessandra Dahmer. adahmer@gmail.com

Eliana Wendland. Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre (UFCSPA). elianawend@gmail.com

Otavio Pereira Davila. Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre (UFCSPA). otaviopereiradavila@gmail.com

**Introdução:** There is a need to improve Primary Health Care in developing countries. The challenge for the health system is to train effectively Primary Health Care professionals. Distance-learning course for family physicians, nurses and dentists is one of the strategies designed by the Ministry of Health to enhance the quality of primary care delivery in Brazil.

**Objetivos:** To evaluate the perception of the impact of a distance-learning course in changing behavior and improve skills related to Primary Health Care in Brazil.

**Metodologia ou descrição da experiência:** A cross-sectional study was carried out in 251 Primary Health Care workers – dentist, nurses and family physicians. Data was collected in 48 cities from south Brazil, by a web-based questionnaire and an interview with Primary Health Care evaluation tools, socio-economic and professional data. The subjects answered whether the web-based course has lead to changes in professional behavior and which areas were most impacted. The distance learning course was a eighteen months long course, developed by the Public Health Department of the Federal University of Health Science with objective of improve primary care attention using web-based dynamic tools (www.unasus.ufcspa.com.br).

**Resultados:** From 251 eligible subjects, 39% replied the web-based questionnaire and the mean age was 35.2±8.27DP (range: 25-68). Forty-eight different towns from South Brazil had been included in this sample. Nurse represented 67.3% of the health professionals and 88.8% were women. There were 94% an agreement on the course as an instrument to change the practice.

**Conclusões ou hipóteses:** The results have shown that distance learning course is effective to enhance Primary Health Care professional’s behavior perception, impacting in the day-by-day practice. The present research has shown that a distance learning course can enhance the implementation of Primary Health Care attributes.

**Palavras-chave:** Primary Health Care. Training. Distance Course.