

Blood donation in Peru, a challenge assumed by APEFYB - Mr. Lizalbe Cristian Tinco
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Peruvian Pharmacy and Biochemistry Students Association - APEFYB, Peru, an organization that promotes Public Health in Peru, has participated efficiently and effectively in one of the most important events of Public Health. This event which promotes the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation - IPSF is tagged *The Vampire Cup*. The Vampire cup aims to encourage populations around the world to donate blood voluntarily. In Peru, the percentage of people who donate blood has been low, consequently, since its inception, the Association has participated in 2017, 2018 and 2019 Live Vampire Cup modality across all its branches nationwide. To carry out this activity, the National Public Health Directors of APEFYB with their counterparts - the directors of Public Health of the branches of the association, conducted comprehensive logistics for the promotion of blood donation. Posters were made with information about blood donation, the myths and truths of blood donation, questions and answers to: Who can donate blood? Why is it important to donate blood? Can I save lives if I donate blood? The objective of making these informative posters was to raise awareness among students and the population about the importance of blood donation. In addition, these informative posters included information about the date, time and place for the general public to go and donate blood. It is important to mention that the informative poster was also disseminated in the social networks of all our branches at national level, in order to obtain a greater diffusion reach. On the other hand, requests were made to the universities to provide their facilities and medical equipment to be installed on the agreed days, in turn requesting the support of hospitals in each region to contribute with medical equipment for the selected dates of blood donation nationwide.

On June 14, 15 and 16, members of APEFYB, students of Health Sciences and the public in general, went to the different blood donation points that APEFYB managed with the directors of Public Health (Universities and Hospitals). Working together with the hospitals helped us to carry out some services such as blood grouping of potential donors, and the delivery of breakfasts and jackets for people who donated blood voluntarily. The whole process of blood donation in all branches of APEFYB, Peru was carried out successfully. During the blood donation process, the main challenge we faced was to mobilize those donors who did not know the hospitals and universities managed for blood donation, thus, a person was assigned with the responsibility of providing timely information about the donation sites. Some donors despite not knowing the donation site did their best to arrive and expressed their desire to donate and help made us awestricken. The collection of blood units by voluntary donation in 2017 was around 72 units, in 2018 it was 189 units and in 2019 it was 359 units of blood. The results obtained

were encouraging as the blood donation campaigns in the different years that APEFYB participated were some of the highest recorded by voluntary donation. When the association participated for the first time in 2017, we were proud of the great work we did, evidenced by being declared the winner of the Live Vampire Cup. This was a great achievement for the association, and it encouraged us to continue working for the improvement of public health, and because of that, we won the Live Vampire Cup again in 2018. Being a two-times champion of one of the most important events in IPSF- the *Vampire Cup*, motivated us to grow more as an association, because by working collectively you can achieve great things. Also, our aim has always been to collect as many units of blood by voluntary donation, and not only to obtain some recognition. It is fulfilling to know that blood donation saves lives - 1 blood donation can save 3 lives.

Annexes



