

Letter to editor

The role of Brazil in the training of Angolan Oncologists

Joao Wilson Rocha ^{1,*}, Euclides Adjane Simão ¹, Fábio da Silva ¹, Artur Fitela ¹

¹ Instituto Angolano de Controle do Câncer, Luanda, Angola.

* Correspondence: jwpr10@gmail.com.

Abstract: Not applicable.

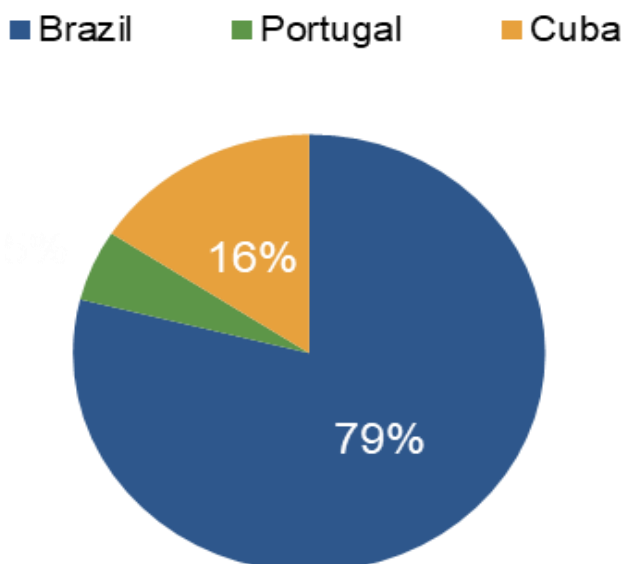
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Dear Editor,

Despite an estimated 456.000 deaths caused by cancer in sub-Saharan Africa in 2012 and a cancer burden that is predicted to double by 2030, the region accounts for only 0.3% of worldwide medical expenditure for cancer. Challenges to cancer care in sub-Saharan Africa include a shortage of clinicians and training programs, weak healthcare infrastructure, and inadequate supplies. Angola is a country on the Atlantic coast of sub-Saharan Africa, has about 30 million inhabitants and approximately 7.000 physicians, i.e., approximately 0.22 physicians/1,000 population (2017); there are some specialties with only one doctor in the whole country and some with no doctors at all [1].

Being dramatic, the medical assistance scenario has been improving since 2011 when new medicine colleges were opened, and several training programs were started abroad to train doctors in different specialties [2]. Brazil was the first country to recognize the independence of Angola, back in 1975 [3]. One of the most important countries for training Angolan doctors in various specialties is Brazil because, besides the better quality of medical education in Brazil, people in both countries speak the same language and share similar cultures (Figure 1) [4].

Figure 1: Training site for Angolan clinics oncologists around the world.



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The Brazil-Angola technical cooperation program has as a legal framework the Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Agreement, signed between the Brazilian and Angolan governments on June 11, 1980, and promulgated on October 5, 1990 [5]. Brazil is the main training place for Angolan Oncologists, with 79% of oncologists and similar Angolans being trained in Brazil. Schools such as the Instituto Nacional do Cancer (INCA) Instituto do Cancer do Estado de São Paulo (ICESP) Instituto Brasileiro de Controle do Cancer (IBCC) AC. Camargo Cancer Center (AC. Camargo), Hospital do Amor (HA Barretos), Escola Paulista de Medicina (EPM), Hospital das Clínicas da Unicamp (UNICAMP), Santa Casa de Porto Alegre, Hospital das Colinas Porto Alegre, Hospital Santa Marcelina, Hospital Mario Covas (Faculdade de medicina do ABC).

Here, a retrospective study was performed, identifying the Angolan Oncologists trained and in training in Brazil. Currently, Angola has 15 trained clinical oncologists and 5 in training, Radiotherapy 4 and 4 in training, Oncologic surgery 2, Pediatric oncologists 4 and 1 training in Brazil. All training and trained doctors are financed by the government of Angola. All of them working in Angola (Tables 1 to 3).

Table 1: Number of doctors by specialties.

Specialty	Number of graduates
Clinical Oncology	15
Pediatric Oncology	4
Radiotherapy	4
Hematology	2
Oncology Surgery	4
Pathologic Anatomy	3
Mastology	1
Oncology Nursing	1

Table 2: Number of doctors in training by specialty.

Specialty	Number of trainees
Clinical Oncology	5
Pediatric Oncology	1
Radiotherapy	4
Hematology	1
Oncology Surgery	0
Pathologic Anatomy	2

All training and trained doctors are financed by the government of Angola. All of them working in Angola. The lack of specialist doctors is a very common problem in low-income countries. On the other hand, high-income countries are already beginning to limit

training in some specialties due to a lack of labor market. The Angolan cooperation model could be adopted by several countries for the promotion of a qualitative overall growth in health care [6]. Brazil is the main school for Angolan oncologists, all techniques, case management and conduct are based in addition to evidence-based medicine, but also in all situations experienced in training. We hope that soon Angola will be able to train its cadres without having to send doctors for training outside the country, but not putting an end to cooperation and brotherhood between the two countries.

Table 3: Number of doctors graduates, and in training by specialty.

Training place	Number of graduates	Number of trainees
INCA	12	4
ICESP	1	1
AC.Camargo	1	0
IBCC	3	0
HA Barretos	1	1
Hospital Santa Marcelina	3	0
FM ABC	2	0
Hospital das Colinas	1	0
Escola Paulista Medicina	1	0
UNICAMP	2	0

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