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## Strengthening evidence-based management

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The authorities of Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) are currently developing a Strategic Plan towards 2050. The purpose of this plan is to set long-term objectives that define a common goal, regardless of those who lead the institution. The implementation of prospective plans will enhance research, innovation, and technology transfer.

Within this strategic plan, the Facultad de Estomatología proposes, as one of its goals, to strengthen its social responsibility activities and establish a more active connection with society. In the middle of this challenge, we think of the words of our founder, Dr. Roberto Beltrán: “The next step is to intensify health promotion and mouth disease prevention, especially for the benefit of the low-income population.” Similarly, our focus is to prepare our students to take optimal advantage of the significant investments made in the acquisition of equipment that has transformed the academic training processes. The simulation strategy, integrated into the educational model a few years ago, enables our students to acquire in advance the necessary skills to guarantee academic excellence in the performance of clinical care. Haptic simulators, phantoms, and the recent remodeling of the multifunctional laboratory in the venue of San Martín de Porres are concrete examples of the investments made to benefit our students, patients and teachers. These initiatives reflect our commitment to continuous improvement and quality education in stomatology.

Transfer of knowledge through research, development and innovation (R&D&I) is an invaluable source that benefits our society as it provides answers to problems that need to be addressed. To this end, investment in research is vital and it is a characteristic sign of the Facultad de Estomatología, which goes hand in hand with the growth of the country. In the Peruvian context, R&D&I funding remains a constant challenge, falling behind the other countries in the region. In that sense, the urgent need to increase these resources for the development of the community is emphasized. Despite the difficulties in the scientific community such as the lack of infrastructure and limited connection with the private sector, there is a way to go through and have success. In this context, Peru is home to an extensive network of entities dedicated to R&D&I, as well as qualified scientists who, with

**Cite as:**

Mendiola-Aquino C.  
Strengthening evidence-based management. *Rev Estomatol Herediana*. 2024; 34( 1): 7-8.  
DOI: 10.20453/reh.v34i1.5299

**Received:** February 12, 2024

**Accepted:** February 20, 2024

**Online:** March 31, 2024



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the right resources, could become crucial drivers of the country's progress.

In the context of the Facultad de Estomatología of UPCH, initiatives to promote R&D&I are based on the strengthening of its research teams and evidence-based management. The generation of knowledge is intrinsically linked to the effective implementation of relevant research management strategies. This includes the consolidation of research groups in areas such as dental materials, biochemistry in oral health, oral-maxillofacial pathology, public health, and stomatological management, apart from resuming research lines such as dental education with emphasis on the areas of simulation and digital transformation. Moreover, it is essential to recognize the importance of generating appropriate environments for collaboration such as interdisciplinary laboratories and multicenter research studies.

This implies an allocation of resources for infrastructure, equipment, investment in research, information technologies, and funding of scientific publications. To effectively support these proposals and achieve scientific excellence, it is essential to establish a strong research culture.

Within this framework, it is necessary to focus on strategies that, as an institution, allow us to adapt and respond to the constantly changing problems and needs of the population. For this reason, by incorporating generational change in the teaching staff as an integral part of our management model, we aim to identify and strengthen the leaders of tomorrow, thus forging talents capable of playing essential roles. This task can only be achieved by synchronizing previous experiences and new emerging perspectives. It is essential to mention that this approach does not compromise written history and does not threaten the roots and fundamental values that identify us. On the contrary, it seeks to promote a culture of learning and development in the faculty based on the experience of great professionals that this university has had. This momentum will inspire innovation and reinforce our commitment to the new generation of teachers and researchers who respond to our country's expectations, with the participation of our students who are UPCH's priority, guaranteeing the sustainability and permanent development of our institution.