

Lancet Commission and Tec de Monterrey join forces to fight cancer



[Tec de Monterrey](#) has hosted the fifth meeting of the [Lancet Commission on Cancer and Health Systems](#).

Around 100 scientists from 24 countries came together at the Mexico City campus to analyze the **public policy** changes that need to be made within **health systems**.

*“Despite the great efforts made to develop new therapeutic **cancer treatments**, it continues to be the second most common cause of death in the world after cardiovascular diseases,”* said Dr. Guillermo Torre, Rector of **TecSalud**.

The commission is made up of an interdisciplinary team of **international specialists and researchers** working to address global issues related to **cancer treatment and health systems**.



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4 key themes of the meeting

Felicia Knaul, Director of the Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas at the [University of Miami](#) and co-chair of the **Lancet Commission on Cancer and Health Systems**, explained that the meeting had focused on 4 central themes:

1. **Cancer** is one of the most complex **health problems** that exists in society, and it helps to frame the challenges that public health care systems face.
2. The importance of **developing innovative public health solutions**.
3. Investment in the **fight against cancer** must be based on an economy of hope and planning for a future that promotes scientific innovation and economic growth.
4. Redefining **health education** to strengthen health systems.

The future of undergraduate health education

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences held a series of academic events related to the meeting, to which it invited **Julio Frenk**, President of the [University of Miami](#) and former Minister of Health.

"I'm very grateful to Tec de Monterrey, which has always been a very innovative institution and has provided an example of many of the ideas I've discussed here. It's a pleasure for me to be here," said Dr. Frenk.

Last October, the **former Mexican Minister of Health** published an article in the [Lancet](#) medical journal about the future of education.

*“COVID didn’t create changes in higher education, but it was a disruptive force in **education** and accelerated the adoption of **technologies** that allowed educational provision to be maintained during the pandemic.*

*“In this article, we talk about the **challenges and opportunities** for educating **health professionals** after the pandemic. We try to analyze what happened during this decade, what changes have happened, and what we have to do now,” he added.*

“We’re obligated not to build just a new normal, but rather a better normal,” Frenk said.

Stimuli for educational change

During his talk, Dr. Frenk discussed three changes in **undergraduate health education**.

- **Advances in learning sciences**

“Cognitive science lets us understand how adults learn in a much better way,” Frenk said.

- **Technological advances**

*“Education was one of the few areas that didn’t undergo a **technological revolution** during the 20th century. That began to change with a series of **technological advances** accelerated by the pandemic,” he explained.*

- **Dynamism within the labor market**

*“We can’t teach **students** everything they need to know while they’re with us in the faculty building. New generations are going to have to adapt and reinvent themselves,” he said.*

Finally, Frenk gave 3 basic recommendations in relation to undergraduate education: **embrace lifelong learning, expand competency-based education, and integrate learning technology.**



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School of Medicine accepts educational challenge

Luis Alonso Herrera, Dean of the **School of Medicine and Health Sciences**, spoke about the article and the talk given by Dr. Frenk.

*“What interests me is how to implement all the changes: the first challenge is that educators have to reinvent themselves, **we teachers must reinvent ourselves**. In addition to having an open mind, we have to rethink how we convey knowledge.*

*“**Educational service providers** must meet the needs of their audience and those needs are changing: we can’t maintain static systems,” he said.*

*“**Educational service providers must meet the needs of their audience and those needs are changing.**” - Luis Alonso Herrera*

Dr. Guillermo Torre shared his opinion of the article published by Julio Frenk.

*“After this talk, I’m coming to realize that the first thing to consider is how **we transform and improve the education** given to health care professionals and I want to take on that challenge.*

*“Julio’s talk struck me because only 1% of **health** spending anywhere in the world is dedicated to **education**, and in Mexico it’s definitely less,” Torre concluded.*

This fifth meeting took place in Mexico City on January 11 and 12.

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