

## **E LEARNING STRATEGIES IN OCCUPATIONAL LEGAL MEDICINE BASED ON PROBLEMS SOLVING THROUGH “CASUS” SYSTEM**

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Spanish universities are currently trying to promote learning tools and models which favour convergence with the Higher Education system in the European Union. The use of online teaching tools which facilitate the incorporation of these methods and tutored self-learning is not yet very widespread in Spanish universities, given the difficulties involved in the development of these tools and their validation. Nevertheless, should they be developed, they could provide a good instrument for teaching support, and even help in common training activities in an international context.

Based on this philosophy, and with a view to encouraging convergence in teaching tools and methods in Occupational Medicine in the heart of the European Union, an initiative was set up within the Master Classes of Legal and Forensic Medicine at Saragossa University, part of the EU funded NetWoRM project, which has been led since 1999 by Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich (Germany).

This project has proven to be highly efficient in permitting the creation and validation of teaching tools which envisage and improve the traditional training of the Occupational Legal Medicine programme imparted to students in the Medicine degree.

### **Materials and Methods:**

A total of 8 cases about: Occupational asthma, Silicosis, Epidemiology, SARS Virus, Bronchial asthma, Needle stick injuries, Lead Anaemia and Asbestosis, were used by 378 Spanish Medical students, and checked in terms of interest and importance for their careers. The results were compared to those from other European students.

### **Results:**

The results obtained following the incorporation of the CASUS system showed that Spanish students who work on resolving validated cases show a higher level of interest comparing to other European students. On the other hand, Spanish students believe cases of Occupational Legal Medicine to be less important for their career than students of other countries, such as in Germany.

### **Conclusions:**

The CASUS system provides the possibility to complete and improve traditional Occupational Medicine training from the Master Classes of Legal Medicine, putting to good use the resources offered by the network and the advantages of learning based on problem solving.