

Priorities and recommendations for Health in Colombia. Analysis of the 2019 Great Health Survey (Science, Technology and Innovation)

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Abstract

Colombia is a country that wants to promote science, technology and innovation (ST&I) as a fundamental element to achieve development and a knowledge-based society. In this context and from the formation of the International Mission of Wise Men 2019, this study sought to analyze, at the national level, the perceptions, ideas and knowledge of the different interest groups related to Life and Health Sciences (LHS) through a semi-structured online survey that included eight topics. After quality control, 5,298 effective responses were obtained that guaranteed high statistical power. The results of the analysis of the closed and open questions are presented. The survey had diverse responses for the different demographic characteristics and a regional participation concentrated mainly in Bogotá, Antioquia and the eastern part of the country. Of the total number of respondents, 51.46% have worked in some line of research.

Regarding ST&I, the respondents considered the importance of implementing specific lines of research according to regional requirements, prioritizing innovation processes and social appropriation of knowledge, orienting research on the main public health problems, implementing a researcher's statute and research on industry 4.0 issues. Preference was given to research in personalized medicine. In the public health category, study and mental health care were considered a priority. Additionally, the issues of prevention and comprehensive health promotion, equity, access to medicines, among others, as well as the importance of public-private partnerships and the relationship between LHS and the SDGs, which require greater broadcast for your understanding. On regulatory issues, the majority of respondents supported the creation of an international oversight to supervise public institutions related to ST&I, a five-year recertification exam, and collaborative work between unions, associations, and universities.

For the social appropriation of knowledge, it was considered that one of the key strategies is the implementation of parks or interactive educational centers in health. The majority of survey respondents approved of empowering patient associations for shared decision-making. The results regarding the well-being of the respondents showed that one in four people found themselves restless, tired and with little interest in general in the last two weeks. In conclusion, the findings of this original study are a fundamental input to promote and strengthen the ST&I processes in LHS and serve as a guide to generate public policies and actions that guarantee better health and well-being of the population.

Keywords

Science, Technology and Innovation; 2019 Great Health Survey; Life and Health Sciences; Colombia.