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422 Clown Doctors

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Abay Poster Exhibition and Hall (Millennium Hall)

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The presence of clowns in hospitals and health centers is currently a reality in several countries. Clown Doctors emerged in the mid-'80s, from the experience of Cristeensen Michael, clown of Big Apple Circus. After a presentation at a hospital in the United States he asked to visit the children who couldn't leave their rooms. By continuing this work, Cristeensen founded the Clown Care Unit, the first group of visitor clowns. From this success, other groups were formed, including some by alumni of the Clown Care Unit and, and have been spreading all over the world, especially from the nineties. Currently, there are groups of professional clowns, artists, voluntary groups and health professionals who have studied the art of clowning to thinking about the benefits of health promotion. Despite the disbelief on the part of health professionals, the clowns were gradually gaining its place in the health service and the first scientific articles on this type of work began to emerge. In scientific communication studies, this fact would represent the first sign that a theme is becoming scientific, leaving the empiric to the theoretic field. The journal article plays the role of knowledge formalization, for having been evaluated by peer review. It is also considered the best way to publicizing the scientific research results, and their consequent use as an input to further research. In order to verify the contribution of the clown performance to the health promotion with the scientific approach, we searched scientific databases worldwide (WoS, Scopus, PubMed, Lilacs and Scielo) and analyzed the papers published on this topic. Using bibliometric tools, we found that most of the articles are devoted to experiences of clown performance to children in hospital and almost nothing about experiences with elderly people.

Learning Objectives: Discuss the impact of the work of clown doctors in the scientific literature.

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