

University Telemedicine Network for Latin America



Luiz Ary Messina	RNP - National Network of Education and Research, Brazil
Paulo Roberto de Lima Lopes	RNP - National Network of Education and Research, Brazil
Eduardo Grizendi	RNP - National Network of Education and Research, Brazil
Juan Pablo Carvallo	CEDIA - Ecuadorian Corporation for the Development of Research and Academia, Ecuador
Rafael Rodríguez	RENATA - National Academic Network of Advanced Technology, Colombia
Carlos Casasús	CUDI - University Corporation for Internet Development, Mexico
Paola Arellano	REUNA - National University Network, Chile
Luis Eliécer Cadenas	RedCLARA- Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks

Introduction

During the September 1 session of the tenth TICAL2020 Conference, an idea that had been debated for years among the representatives of the academic networks of Latin America took shape: the expansion of the University Telemedicine Network (RUTE) to the Latin American continent. The National Academic Network for Advanced Technology (RENATA-Colombia), the Ecuadorian Corporation for the Development of Research and the Academy (CEDIA-Ecuador), the University Corporation for Internet Development (CUDI-Mexico) and the National University Network (REUNA -Chile) signed an agreement proposed by RNP and drawn up by RedCLARA for the creation of the Latin American Telemedicine University Network (RUTE-AL).

The objective

The objective of the initiative is to expand and strengthen scientific and educational cooperation in health in Latin America through the implementation of joint activities that support the development of a regional telehealth network based on the experience of RUTE in Brazil.

The Net

RUTE, active for 14 years in Brazil, is coordinated and promoted by RNP and the objective of this agreement is to extend the activities of the network in Latin America. The truth is that this is very much in line with the discussion about the importance of health and what other national networks do to cooperate in this area. It is a contribution agreement to identify actions, and it is expected that it will strengthen joint work and generate the same benefits that are already perceived in Brazil.

Therefore, we have a change of perspective on telemedicine and telehealth, which has been rapidly transformed, mainly due to the needs in the face of the new Coronavirus pandemic and which guarantees greater strength and importance for the new collaborative network that is starting. At this time, the whole of society knows better and realizes the value and potential of the practice of telemedicine and telehealth. A few years ago, it was very difficult to speak with many doctors, with authorities, because they did not know its importance, that has now changed. Everyone has seen that these activities can help a lot, so that patients can be cared for at home, those with chronic diseases do not need to go to hospitals, they are very practical instances, of course as long as there is connectivity available. With advances in Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Big Data, etc., we can only hope that connectivity will become more and more relevant. People are more used to using videoconferencing from their cell phones, but there is still a great effort on the part of all academic networks to achieve collaborative work that includes governments, academia, managers and companies, so that they can face a front common that includes all relevant actors in society.

The future

The conclusion is that RUTE-AL can contribute by bringing together specialists from all public and private universities and teaching hospitals. It is also important to highlight the articulating role of RedCLARA, recognizing the importance of this initiative and inviting academic networks from Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. But, all academic networks in Latin America and the Caribbean will be able to participate.



More information about RUTE-AL

<https://www.redclara.net/index.php/es/colaboracion/conozca/red-universitaria-de-telemedicina-de-america-latina-rute-al>