Report about the First Brazilian Physiology Olympiad

The "First Brazilian Physiology Olympiad", organized by the Undergraduate Teaching Commission of the Brazilian Society of Physiology (SBFis) in partnership with Grupo Gen and ADInstruments, was held between August and October 2021, remote. The Organizing Committee included Kelly Cristina Gavião Luchi, Fernanda Klein Marcondes, Lais Tono Cardozo and Paulo Fernando Guedes Pereira Montenegro. The special guests on the organizing committee were Robert G. Carroll and Hwee-Ming Cheng. The objective of this Olympiad was to encourage and promote the study of Physiology in Brazil and the involvement of students in academic-scientific activities. The Award ceremony was held during the opening ceremony of the LVI Annual Congress of the Brazilian Society of Physiology (SBFis), one of the largest and most traditional meetings of physiologists in Latin America, which held from October 12 to 17, 2021, virtually. The 1st Brazilian Physiology Olympiad consisted of three phases. In each phase, the students had to answer an online test with twenty-five (25) multiple-choice questions, about human physiology themes, with a maximum answer time of two hours. At the end of each phase, the participants were ranked considering the number of correct answers, and according to the rules described in the Olympiad regulations. All information about the Olympiad was available on its official website: https://www.grupogen.com.br/olimpiadas-fisiologia, and on the LVI Annual Congress of the Brazilian Society of Physiology (SBFis) website. A total of 301 students registered for the Olympiad, including 18 different undergraduate courses (Aesthetics and Cosmetology, Biological Sciences, Biomedicine, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry, Medical Physics, Medicine, Neuroscience, Nursing, Nutrition, Pharmacy, Physical Education, Physiotherapy, Science with a focus on Biology, Psychology, Veterinary Medicine). Of all the 301 students, 188 participated in phase 1, 94 in phase 2 and 8 in phase 3. On September 28th, the Organizing committee set up a meeting with its members, the special quests and all the students that were apt to take part in the last phase of the Olympiad. The aims of this meeting were to congratulate the students for their performance, encourage them to go on with their professional careers, and also to make them feel as part of the Physiology community. Professor Cheng presented a brief history of many initiatives in Olympiad format to gather students around discussion of physiology topics, and stressed the pioneering effort for the accomplishment of the First Brazilian Physiology Olympiad. Professor Carroll talked about the importance of the physiology knowledge for every health/biology professional, either or not they are involved in academic research activity. All the students reported how glad they were to participate in the Olympiad, and specially to be among the finalists. They also praised the organizing committee for the quality of the questions, designed to promote application of basic knowledge to solve professional issues.

Victor Quintella de Aragão Porto, student at the 7th semester of Medicine at the Fluminense Federal University, won the third place. Leonardo Magalhães Andrade e Silva, from the 7th semester of Medicine at the Bahia School of Medicine and Public Health won the second place. First place was won by the student Sarah Ackel Müller Ferreira, from the 4th semester of Dentistry at the Piracicaba Dental School of the State University of Campinas.



