Editorial

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The role of Pediatric Neurosurgery in the Sustainable Development Goals

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Figure 1 - Sustainable Development Goals

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interconnected global goals adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015 to end poverty, reduce inequality and build more peaceful, prosperous societies by 2030 [1] (Figure.1).

The SDGs aim to leave no one behind and promote peace, prosperity, and the protection of the planet [2].

Pediatric neurosurgery intersects with several of these goals, contributing to the overall improvement of health, well-being, and social and economic development. Here are some ways in which pediatric neurosurgery aligns with the SDGs:

GOAL 1: NO POVERTY:

Access to affordable healthcare, including pediatric neurosurgery, is crucial in preventing families from falling into poverty due to the financial burden of medical expenses associated with treating neurological conditions in children.

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

Pediatric neurosurgery directly contributes to Goal 3 by improving the health and well-being of children suffering from neurological conditions, tumors, and congenital anomalies. Accessible and quality neurosurgical care is essential for achieving this goal.

GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION:

Children with neurological disorders may face challenges in accessing education. Pediatric neurosurgery, by addressing and treating conditions affecting cognitive function, contributes to creating an environment where children can engage more fully in educational opportunities.

GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:

Improved health outcomes for children through pediatric neurosurgery can contribute to the overall economic productivity of a nation. Healthy children are more likely to

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grow into productive adults, supporting sustainable economic growth.

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

Advances in medical technology and neurosurgical techniques contribute to improving the infrastructure and capabilities of healthcare systems. Investing in innovative solutions can enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of pediatric neurosurgery.

GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES:

Ensuring equitable access to pediatric neurosurgical care helps reduce health inequalities. Children from marginalized or disadvantaged communities should have the same opportunities for successful outcomes and quality of life following neurosurgical interventions.

GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS:

Ensuring access to pediatric neurosurgery supports the creation of just and inclusive societies. Children with neurological conditions may face challenges related to their rights and well-being, and addressing these issues contributes to building strong and just institutions.

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS:

Collaboration between healthcare providers, researchers, governments, and international organizations is essential for advancing pediatric neurosurgery. Partnerships can enhance knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and resource allocation to address the specific needs of pediatric neurosurgical patients.

Efforts have been made to improve surgical care for children, but there is still a high burden of surgical conditions in low-and middle-income countries, and the lack of access to surgical care threatens the health of millions of children [3-5].

Epidemiological data reveal that brain health deserves more prominence in the global fight against both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Most of this huge burden is borne by countries of low and middle income, where many people affected by brain diseases might not even be able to access the basic services and economic resources required to end poverty, which is the first SDG on the 2030 Agenda [6].

Recently, Springer Nature's inaugured cross-imprint book series that addresses and supports the United Nations' seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and also by launching an SDS program promoting and connecting researchers with the global community [7]. The backing of the scientific community is crucial for the success of initiatives like this.

The Archives of Pediatric Neurosurgery was born in September 2019 recognized as the official publication of the Brazilian Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (SBNPed). APN is also the only journal specialized in Pediatric Neurosurgery in Latin America [8].

APN is committed to contributing positively to global SDGs. Recognizing the critical role that healthcare and medical research play in advancing societal well-being, the journal actively promotes sustainable practices in its operations. From the adoption of eco-friendly publishing processes to the encouragement of research focused on pediatric neurosurgery interventions with long-term societal benefits, the APN aligns its mission with SDGs, ensuring a harmonious balance between scientific advancement and environmental and social responsibility. By fostering research and disseminating knowledge that addresses pressing pediatric neurosurgical challenges, the journal strives to make a meaningful impact on the broader goal of promoting sustainable and inclusive development for the well-being of future generations.

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