

Camila Palma introduces the SPO

What have been the most substantial initiatives promoted by your Scientific Society to date?

Our main initiatives to promote oral health in children are focused on education, prevention, and advocacy. We are proud to say that the SPO has been able to conduct scientific Congresses since its creation in 1953, for 70 years straight! Even during the pandemic, the annual meeting was held online, with more than 700 participants from all over the world. These continuing education opportunities enable Pediatric Dentists to stay updated on the latest minimally invasive practices. Moreover, our Society publishes research related to pediatric dentistry in our journal, providing evidence-based guidelines for practitioners. The SPO also advocates for preventive care programmes and children's oral health through community dental screenings.



**PERUVIAN SOCIETY OF
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
SOCIEDAD PERUANA DE
ODONTOPEDIATRIA (SPO)**



Country
Peru

Established in
1953

Admission procedure
Being certified (collegiate) by the Peruvian Professional Dental Association, two member recommendations, having a Pediatric Dentistry Postgraduate Degree from a recognized University or having participated in at least 3 Pediatric Dentistry Congresses and paying an annual fee.

Number of members
469

President:
Camila Palma (2023-2025)

Board of Directors:
President: Camila Palma
Past President: Mirza Flores
Vice-president: Evelyn Alvarez
Secretary: Flavia La Rocca
Past Secretary: Maria Cecilia Ramirez
Treasurer: Rosa Muñoz
Past Treasurer: Johana Prado
Director of Scientific Affairs: Ailín Cabrera
Arbiters: Mónica Valdivieso, Gabriela de la Cruz
Library Director: Dafna Geller
Regional coordinator: César Bravo
Location: Av. La Paz 434, Of.401, Miraflores, Lima, Peru

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spodontopediatria@gmail.com
Instagram: @spodontopediatria
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Spodontopediatria/>

Brief history of the Scientific Society

The Peruvian Society of Pediatric Dentistry (SPO) was founded in Lima in 1953, so we celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. It is the main pediatric dentistry organization in Peru and is based in Lima. Its board is comprised of 12 members elected for a period of two years (President, Past President, Vice-president, Secretary, Past Secretary, Treasurer, Past-treasurer, Director of Scientific affairs, 2 Arbiters, Library Director and Regional coordinator). The Peruvian society has representatives in 11 Peruvian regions.

The SPO is an active member of the International Association of Pediatric Dentistry (IAPD) and the Latin American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (ALOP). Our aim is to support the scientific progress in Pediatric Dentistry and highlight the importance of our specialty in

the Peruvian population, in order to increase oral health literacy and promote correct oral health habits since early childhood. The SPO publishes a scientific journal twice a year, which is indexed in Lilacs, Ebsco, Lipecs, and Imbiomed.

The number of members increases each year, as younger pediatric dentists are included in our Society. Every August, the month of our anniversary, the main scientific congress is held. The venue is located in Lima or other Peruvian regions and renowned international speakers take part. We recognize the best undergraduate students of pediatric dentistry from all Peruvian universities so to promote postgraduate education. Our annual congress gathers between 250-450 assistants and includes a variety of themes, especially evidence-based interventions. Since the pandemic, our monthly scientific short lectures are held online and are free to everyone.

COUNTRY DEMOGRAPHIC AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA

Peru



NUMBER
OF DENTISTS
45,000

LAST DMFT INDEX MEASURED IN THE POPULATION

Last epidemiological national study found a caries prevalence of 76% in 3-5 year-old children and the average DMFT at this age range was 5, with the decayed component contributing 4.5 to this score. In children younger than 12 years old, caries prevalence is 85%. Dental caries in Peru is the most prevalent disease in school and preschool children and the main reason for external visits in primary healthcare centers.

During which year is
paediatric dentistry
taught?

5th

Is there a Post-
Graduate Course in
Paediatric Dentistry?
How long does it last?

**Yes, taught
by 6
Universities**

How long does this specific course last?

**4 consecutive
semesters (2 years)**

How long does it last?

**Two years (full-time
dedication)**

AVERAGE AGE OF THE POPULATION

33 years old



POPULATION

33,720,000



POPULATION BELOW 18 YEARS

10,466,00



What is the level of collaboration between dentists and paediatricians?

Collaboration between Pediatric Dentists and Paediatricians is essential to promote early dental visits and to advocate for children's oral health. The SPO has created an Oral Health Guideline Manual for Paediatricians, and we hope that future collaborations between both societies will enable the creation of policy statements, as well as specific trainings in both fields. We wish to accomplish these objectives in the near future.

What would be necessary to improve children's oral health?

Peru is amongst the countries with the highest prevalence of untreated Early Childhood Caries in the region. An urgent change of direction is needed. This paradigm shift requires a multifaceted approach involving various stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, policymakers, parents, caregivers, scientific

societies, and community organizations. From a political standpoint, it is crucial to integrate strategies to prevent ECC into public health programmes during the first year of life (including a healthy diet, regular use of fluoridated toothpaste, and early dental visits). Moreover, it is essential that Pediatric Dentists, led by the SPO, keep advocating for ECC prevention and for the importance of primary teeth to parents, caregivers, and the community at large.

What are the association's future projects?

We hope to keep leading the scientific agenda in Children's Oral Health in Peru through our Congresses and lectures, as well as integrating new Pediatric Dentists in our society. In the near future, we expect to collaborate closely with the Peruvian Academy of Paediatricians, as well as to raise awareness of the importance of oral health starting in early childhood through social media campaigns, educational materials, and programmes for parents, caregivers, and educators.