Smoking: What is the truth about Cancer behind the smoke? V Love Hospital Essay Contest

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CONCLUSION
A partnership with the Secretary of Education of São Paulo State was consolidated; there was significant improvement in the quality of the students’ work, and the ones who won the internship were much more engaged. Therefore, we could see that the goals of the project were reached.

INTRODUCTION
Since cancer is a public health problem, and smoking is the most common avoidable cause of death, the Cancer Education Department (CED) at Love Hospital (LH) has brought this theme for 9th graders to discuss. This year, they wrote about the impact of smoking on individual and collective health, including cancer. It was important to highlight the preventive feature of a series of diseases (including tumors) with the cessation of smoking or the non-use of cigarettes, as well as the aspects of acquired dependency.

OBJECTIVE
To spread knowledge about cancer and the harms of tobacco, and to present young talents to scientific investigation.

METHODS
Teachers and students had access to theory made available by LH. Each Boards sent CED the essays, which were evaluated by a scientific research group assembled by LH. The five best students and their parents were brought to Barretos, where they stayed for three days. During those days, the students participated in an internship program in the Molecular Oncology Research Center at LH, where they learned about things such as cell mutation on cancer and prevention measures.

RESULTS
Besides a significant improvement in the quality of the essays sent to us, which may be due to the support material made available by CED, a partnership with the Secretary of Education of São Paulo State was made, 43 Regional Teaching Boards from São Paulo State joined the project, 11,041 essays were written, and 378 teachers and 195 schools participated as well.

In the State of São Paulo there are 91 Regional Teaching Councils. We have already reached 43, and our goal is to expand the membership of the Regional Councils each year by bringing more students and teachers to know more.