



Acta Pediátrica de México. **Challenges to increase impact**

Acta Pediátrica de México has been published regularly and without interruption since 1980 as the official organ of the National Institute of Pediatrics. Over its 34 years, the journal's primary goal has been to disseminate knowledge produced by the Institute's various specialists and researchers.

The journal is in second place in visits among the 141 Mexican journals listed in the Mexican index of Latino American Biomedical Journals (Spanish acronym IMBIOMED); however, we know little of its scientific impact measured by citations of its articles or if articles from the journal are actually read and in any way change the practice of pediatricians in Mexico and Latin America. For example, the *Acta Pediátrica* article that IMBIOMED identifies as most read, "Pertussis-like syndrome and whooping cough: present situation of epidemiological vigilance," published by Mancebo-Hernandez A. et al. in 2005, has no citation on Google Scholar or PubMed.

As regards presence in international search indices, *Acta Pediátrica de México* is listed only on EBSCO (MedicLatina) and Latindex, which makes it difficult for the original articles — many of which are of high quality — to be accessible to other researchers in the field of Pediatrics.

Starting with this issue, I have been named Editor in Chief of *Acta Pediátrica de México*, under the guidance of Dr. Jorge Espino Vela, who will continue to serve as the journal's Editor Emeritus.

The goals I pursue are, first to maintain the long tradition of *Acta Pediátrica de México* as an instrument for divulgation of scientific evidence and information generated as a product of original basic, clinical, epidemiologic, and social research in the field of pediatrics by researchers in Mexico and in other Latin American countries.

The journal will continue to publish the following types of manuscripts: editorials, original articles, clinical cases of special interest, clinical cases from the anatomopathologic session of the National Institute of Pediatrics, review articles, pediatric criteria, and letters to the editor. Starting with this issue, the journal will be published in print in Spanish and online (www.actapediatricademexico.org) in Spanish and English. The English language publication is offered in the interest of making the articles published accessible to the international non-Spanish speaking community for which English is the universal language of science communication.

Secondly, we need to improve the management of the journal, so that all vetting processes are handled professionally and expeditiously through our website. To achieve that, we have defined a workflow that includes acceptance for review or rejection of each article submitted (for failure to meet the minimum requisites) in a period of no more than 24 hours. Then, articles that are accepted to continue the evaluation process will be evaluated by at least two reviewers, chosen based on their professional



academic profile and proven experience as authors in high-level publications. After that revision — no more than 8 weeks — and when the reviewers request changes or clarifications in the document, the authors will be allowed a maximum of 30 days to make them, after which the article may be published. More details of the journal's vetting process, and the new "Standards for Authors," can be consulted on our website or in print editions.

Optimizing the vetting process and having a more diverse and renewed Editorial Board should progressively raise the level of original articles, which in turn will help us achieve indexing of *Acta Pediátrica de México* in the CONACYT Index of Scientific and Technological Journals and in SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online), a model for online cooperative electronic publication of scientific journals developed to respond to needs of scientific communication in developing countries, and particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Inclusion in these two catalogs, which provide access to the full text of journals, will help boost the visibility of the articles published in our journal by the scientific community in Mexico and Latin America.

Subsequently, as *Acta Pediátrica de México* satisfies the necessary requisites, we will seek to progressively include it in Medline/PubMed, which is the world's most widely used search

index for medical information and is overseen by the U.S. National Library of Medicine; Scopus, which is a database containing abstracts and citations of academic articles published in more than 20,000 scientific journals which belongs to the publishing company Elsevier; and finally access the Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Report, which will give *Acta Pediátrica de México* a higher impact factor and raise its rating among Mexican scientific publications.

From the standpoint of communication, applications have been developed for smart phones and tablets, which, starting in January 2014, will offer rapid, up-to-date access to the content of *Acta Pediátrica de México*; we will launch a campaign to promote the journal at the leading scientific congresses and meetings in the field of pediatrics organized in Mexico and Latin America, as well as a campaign to distribute the content of *Acta Pediátrica de México* on social networks (Facebook and Twitter).

We encourage all the professionals who contribute articles and read *Acta Pediátrica de México* to share our journal with their contacts, which will help make it easily accessible to physicians interested in updating their knowledge of pediatrics.

Dr. Francisco Javier Espinosa Rosales
Editor in Chief
Acta Pediátrica de México