Welcome Aboard the Acta Medica Portuguesa, **Welcome to the First International Division!**



Bem-vindo a Bordo da Acta Médica Portuguesa, Bem-vindos à Primeira Divisão Internacional!

Rui Tato MARINHO^{1,2}, Helena DONATO^{3,4} Acta Med Port 2014 Sep-Oct;27(5):533-534

Palavras-chave: Revistas; Publicação; Portugal. Keywords: Periodicals as Topic; Publishing; Portugal.

The Acta Médica Portuguesa (AMP) entered the fourth year of its new phase. We are now completing our 35th birthday with indexation to PubMed / Medline. One of our major objectives was met in 2010 when an Impact Factor was assigned by the Journal Citation Reports upon indexation to the Thomson Reuters' Web of Science. Only four other medical reviews have currently been attributed these two assignments in Portugal, showing a certain step of quality and international disclosure. They include the Revista Portuguesa de Pneumologia, the Revista Portuguesa de Cardiologia and the Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa. The authors of these 'Big Four' are responsible for more than 7,600 articles in Medline, the great worldwide reference case of biomedical articles and their common tendency is an increase in the Impact Factor over the next few years. Please do quote us, study us and disclose our work. These were 35 years of history in Portuguese scientific publishing. Most of currently active Portuguese physicians were trained at the 12th best National Health Service in the world, according to WHO 2000 data.1

Approximately 750 articles are annually received by AMP, with an 83% rejection rate. We are in the first international division with the New England Journal of Medicine, the Lancet, the Annals of Internal Medicine and the British Medical Journal, among others. We are currently in 132nd place among 150 reviews in the 'Medicine, General and Internal' category.

The support structure provided by the Portuguese College of Physicians (the Ordem dos Médicos [OM]), the owner of AMP, needs to be reinforced and professionalized: AMP should be clearly and sustainably integrated within the organisation chart of OM, in order to remain alive and active beyond any leading team changes. The core of a review such as the AMP has a complex activity involving 10 - 15 professionals from different areas (coordinator, editorial assistant, designer,

translator, IT professional, technical advisor, associate editors, etc.), requiring scientific and management autonomy within the OM.

The Editor-in-Chief should work semi-professionally (subject to tendering procedure, to a work contract, money compensation or working under some flexitime system, etc.) given the job's demands and impact on personal, professional and even on family life. It would not be very far from accurate when we state that the time allocated to the editor-in-chief activity in this review should be one day per week.

Despite the worldwide relevance of the spoken or written Portuguese language, English is beyond doubt the mother-language of any scientific manuscript.^{2,3} Most of the referred 'quotation market' is markedly present in North America and in the Western Europe. 4 The countries in the other continents will have to publish in English if they aim maximum disclosure of their work.5 The most recent AMP article with most quotations was published in English.6

Our final consumer will always be the author and its article. We intend to promote Acta Médica Portuguesa and make it available worldwide as much as possible. The manuscript is our major asset and we intend to give our best for the authors.

We will soon organize the 3rd Symposium of Acta Médica Portuguesa that will be held at OM's main office in Lisbon in the 22nd of November. Fifteen speakers, six Portuguese scientific reviewers and one International editor (Springer Science) will be present. We wish to promote the 'How to Do' in the area of medical editing and medical publishing.7

Publish or perish. Our vision is to create 'a healthier world'. ... In order to help our patients. To help doctors to make better decisions.

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^{1.} Editor-Chefe. Acta Médica Portuguesa. Lisboa. Portugal.

^{2.} Serviço de Gastrenterologia e Hepatologia. Hospital de Santa Maria. Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Norte. Portugal.

^{3.} Editora Associada. Acta Médica Portuguesa. Lisboa. Portugal.

^{4.} Serviço de Documentação. Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra. Coimbra. Portugal.

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Av. Almirante Gago Coutinho, 151 1749-084 Lisboa, Portugal. Tel: +351 218 428 215

E-mail: submissao@actamedicaportuguesa.com www.actamedicaportuguesa.com ISSN:0870-399X | e-ISSN: 1646-0758













