

Presentation

Objective: the indexation of our Journal

Upon the voluntary retirement of Dr. Ignacio Moneo as Director of the *Revista Española de Alergología e Inmunología Clínica*, a post he had agreed to occupy while my own Presidency of the Spanish Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology lasted, the current Directive Board asked me to succeed him. This I have accepted, being fully conscious of the difficulties this post entails.

My work at the head of the Journal has one priority aim, which one might call one single aim: to achieve the recognition of our Journal by the U. S. National Library of Medicine for *Index Medicus*®/MEDLINE®. To achieve the inclusion of a new journal in this catalogue is no easy task. A number of requisites must be fulfilled, and it is our hope to achieve them in the issues of our Journal corresponding to the year 2000, which are the ones to be submitted for examination to the U. S. National Library of Medicine.

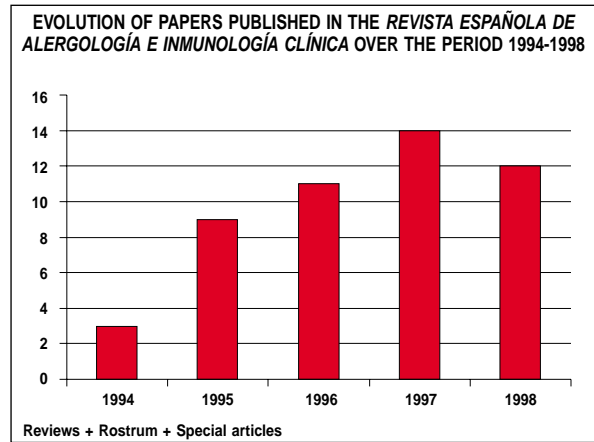
However, in order for those issues for the year 2000 to represent the expression of our best scientific production and its ensuing diffusion, a number of changes must be initiated and consolidated in the course of this preceding year. To this purpose, we have undertaken a number of initiatives in the early months of 1999, which shall be successively amplified. In summary, those new undertakings include:

1. The creation of a new Editorial Committee, with participation both of Spanish professionals and of foreign colleagues with acknowledged international prestige.

2. Increasing the diffusion of our Journal. The project which has been initiated comprises sending the Journal to Portugal (issue number 1 of the present year has already been received by all the Members of the *Sociedade Portuguesa de Alergologia e Imunologia Clinica*). With each new issue of the Journal for the year 1999 the sco-

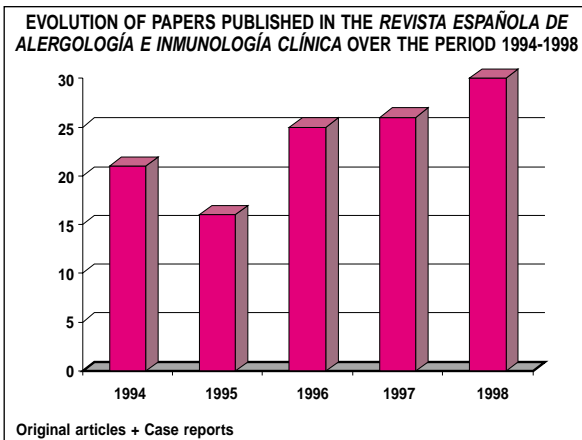
pe of the mailing shall be enlarged to include successively the Members of other Societies: *Asociación Argentina de Alergia e Inmunología* (Argentine), *Sociedade Brasileira de Alergia e Imunopatologia* (Brazil), *Asociación Colombiana de Alergia e Inmunología* (Colombia), *Sociedad Chilena de Alergia e Inmunología* (Chile), Hispanic-American Allergy and Immunology Association, *Sociedad Mexicana de Alergia e Inmunología Clínica* (Mexico), *Sociedad Panameña de Alergia e Inmunología* (Panama), *Sociedad Paraguaya de Alergia e Inmunología* (Paraguay), *Sociedad Uruguaya de Alergología* (Uruguay) and *Sociedad Venezolana de Alergia e Inmunología* (Venezuela). This will entail increasing the print run from the present 2.000 copies per issue to approximately 3.700 copies per issue, with the corresponding increase in editorial costs and most significantly in the mailing costs, two problems for which adequate solutions are being looked for. The subject is a complex one, as one of the important requisites for indexation is the diffusion achieved by the candidate journal, but the distribution may not be effected through channels established by commercial companies of the pharmaceutical industry. The opportune contacts have already been established with most of the above Societies with the aim of instituting a co-operation that may afford a positive interchange for our publication.

3. In the context of a wider diffusion of our Journal, a very important achievement has been its electronic edition, an enterprise that was accomplished by the previous Directive Board. However, access to this electronic edition was restricted, up to a few months ago, exclusively to the Members of SEAIC. Access to the Journal is now completely open, and the Journal has been included in the main electronic search programmes world-wide.



Furthermore, and although the requirements for indexation of a journal state that the publication language shall constitute no obstacle, we have considered it opportune to prepare and edit, besides the Spanish edition, a full English-language electronic edition of our Journal, of which this is the second issue. In this way, our Journal may be accessed and consulted both in Spanish and in English, independently, through the already mentioned search programmes. Our aim in this is to increase the diffusion of the Journal to a potentially world-wide readership. A further point to be stressed is the increase experienced in the number of electronic consultation contacts to the Journal, which can be appreciated in the graph above.

4. The increased distribution and accessibility of the Journal may possibly entail receiving a greater number of original contributions for publica-



tion. A number of original papers submitted by authors from foreign countries have already been received. However, and even though during the previous period the number of articles and reviews increased remarkably (as shown in the graphs, which were published in the Annual Report of the SEAIC for 1997-98), we still suffer a relative dearth of original papers, which prevents us from preparing and publishing in due time, for instance, Editorials referring to the subjects discussed in a given issue of the Journal, and this is indeed one of the requirements for indexation. On the other hand, a number of Meetings and Symposia are organised in our Country by the Autonomy or Regional Societies of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. At these events, works are presented of undoubted scientific interest, which are then however not published in journals of our speciality. For this reason, it has been considered opportune to create a new section in the Journal under the heading of "Meeting Point", which begins in the present issue, which shall publish papers from a given Society Meeting, provided they are acceptably original, rigorous in their production and adequate in their conclusions, and provided also that the authors accept and meet the rules for publication.

5. It is very important for the Journal to develop into a true organ of expression and debate at an exclusively scientific level. Scientific opinions should and must be contrasted and debated, and it is therefore of prime importance to have in the Journal a "Letters to the Editor" section which is alive, agile and dynamic. This is possibly one of

the current failures in our Journal. Generally speaking, we do not seem to be interested in making comments and express opinions on papers which have been published, and this is also one of the requisites for indexation of a journal.

6. A further and very important point is that the authors of papers submitted to our Journal for publication should become used to cite in their references papers which have already been published in the Journal and which are pertinent to their work. It is usual for the authors to carry out bibliographic searches in international databases where only the indexed journals are contained, and this excludes journals such as ours, which has not yet entered this circuit. As this is an indispensable conditionant, this vicious circle must be broken. We consider that the availability of electronic versions of the Journal shall be quite useful in this context, as this simplifies bibliographic searches and allows rapid access to published articles.

7. Even though the Instructions for Authors published in the Journal, which are based on the recommendations of the main biomedical journals, should be considered obligatory, the Journal still receives papers which do not fulfil them. All

authors should adhere to these instructions, even if this represents an effort, as papers which do not fulfil these rules and instructions cause problems and unnecessary delays despite the unstinting labours of the Spanish and English style correctors who work for the Journal.

All the above points configure the group of measures that have been initially adopted in order to provide access to indexation for our Journal; they will possibly be expanded in the course of the year. It is also important and meeting to acknowledge the importance of the previous period, under the direction of Dr. Ignacio Moneo and of the full Board of Directors, whose efforts and dedication have laid the foundations for a new projection of the Journal and have rendered feasible this new and possibly definitive step. I must however insist that it must be our work, the work of all of us, to give the Journal a good scientific quality. It is to this purpose that I now request the fullest co-operation. Only in this way shall we achieve the objective we have set for us.

Enrique Buendía
April 1999