

Increasing the Editorial Impact of a Subspecialty Journal: How to do that?

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The official journal of a Medical Society should be able to represent the Society's views; be useful to its associates in terms of conveying and disseminating medical innovations and should be a channel to promote studies and research activities, not only in the Society's host country but also in other countries from different continents. The journal published by the Cardiovascular Imaging Department (DIC) began its history as the *Revista do Departamento de Ecocardiografia* [Echocardiography Department Journal] in 1988. Subsequently, it was adapted to international standards and had its structure and cover changed. It is published on the database LILACS-BIREME (Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information). In 2013, it assumed the current format as *ABC Imagem Cardiovascular*. These changes, over the 26 years of its existence, result from the hard work of the journal's editors and contributors.

The journal of our department, however, requires some reflection. Reflection about its future, reflection about the strategies of the progression of its indexation in the database with the largest international coverage, and certainly the most interesting one to the authors.

To make our journal an international option not only for the dissemination of national research, but also of international research, some actions seem necessary. The main objective of the latest boards regarding the journal has been the indexation on databases with a more international character, such as SCIELO or Scopus (Elsevier B.V.). To draw a comparison at a national level, the *Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia* are currently ranked as Qualis B2 journal by the Agency for the Advancement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes - *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior*), from the Ministry of Education, with indexation in the database ISI Web of Science; Cumulated Index Medicus - MEDLINE; EMBASE; SCOPUS; SCIELO and LILACS, with an average impact factor of 1.1, according to Thompson Reuters. Our journal would be ranked Qualis B5 by Capes. However, the *Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia* has over 60 years of life and it is the official journal of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology.

Keywords

Periodicals as Topic/trends; Journal Impact Factor; Databases; Bibliographic.

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How can we make the *ABC Imagem Cardiovascular* attractive to authors and researchers, increasing the number of manuscripts submitted to publication, thus raising the possibility of indexation in databases with greater coverage? To do this, we can think of an action plan with some actions as follows:

I. Increasing international collaboration (greater internationalization of the journal). In the past years, we have received eight professors for the International Editorial Board (professors from Venezuela, Argentina, United States, Spain, Colombia). As a consequence of this connection, we received manuscripts by authors from Spain, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Portugal, Chile, United States. We must, therefore, strengthen our ties with the Inter-American Society of Echocardiography (Ecosiac), the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI).

II. Increased domestication of the journal. We received seven new professors from several Brazilian states to join the National Editorial Board. This point seems to be very important. The journal needs stronger support from the echocardiography and cardiovascular imaging services of Brazil. Support in terms of submission of original manuscripts, especially. We consider that the initial idea of the service is the submission of original manuscripts to journals of greater international indexation for a wider dissemination of the research. On the other hand, major services will always produce research studies that can be addressed to *ABC Imagem Cardiovascular*.

III. A closer connection to Universities, University Centers and University Hospitals of Brazil (greater integration and domestication of the journal). The purpose of this initiative is to encourage the publication of graduate research in the journal.

IV. Establishment of a Board of Former Editors. This board would meet on a semi-annual basis to discuss and suggest guidelines and plan the journal in a concerted effort with the editor-in-chief. It would be an opportunity to capitalize on the experiences of former administrations, and share ideas with former editors to provide support to the editor-in-chief.

V. Increase the number of awards to the best manuscripts from different fields of study. The *Revista Española de Cardiologia* awards 11 different categories with support from the pharmaceutical industry.

VI. Speedier review of the manuscripts submitted, with a shorter review deadline.

VII. Joint actions with editors from Ibero-American and North American medical imaging journals, giving support to

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meetings like those of the V Reunión de Editores de Revistas Cardiovasculares Iberoamericanas, which occurred on March 10, 2013, during the Congress of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) in San Francisco (USA).

VIII. Invitation to researchers from Brazil, Latin America, the United States, and Europe, to write reviews and record-type studies and sub-studies of manuscripts published in other journals.

IX. Inviting reputable authors to submit manuscripts.

X. Possibly appointing an international deputy editor to strengthen the connection between the journal and the

international cardiology community, with a view to increasing the number of manuscripts from other countries.

Among all these actions, increased support from echocardiography and imaging services is the most important factor to help the current editor-in-chief Dr. Ana Clara Tude Rodrigues in the important task of maintaining the journal *ABC Imagem Cardiovascular* as a powerful tool of expression for all its members.

Sincerely,
Marcelo Vieira