

## Thirty years of the Brazilian Journal of Pulmonology: 100% growth in 2 years points to a promising future

This will be my last editorial as the editor of the *Jornal Brasileiro de Pneumologia* (JBP, Brazilian Journal of Pulmonology). When I took over the position, we had many dreams of what the then Journal of Pulmonology could be and achieve<sup>(1)</sup>. In a very short period of time for a scientific journal, most of those dreams came true. The changes we made were only possible thanks to the unconditional support and assurance of independence that I, and all the former editors, received from the *Sociedade Brasileira de Pneumologia e Fisiologia* (Brazilian Society of Pulmonology and Phthisiology). The transformation of the JBP into a business and the full-time work of our secretary, Priscilla Bovolenta, have been crucial. The expenses of the journal have tripled in the last two years but have been completely absorbed thanks to the new management plan at the JBP. The altruistic and anonymous work of the Brazilian and foreign peer reviewers was central. The number of papers submitted to the JBP increased from 77 in 2002 to 163 in 2004. However, the number of ad-hoc reviewers increased from 53 in 2002 to 206 in 2004. As an editor, I could clearly see how much the scientific papers have improved from their first submission to their final publication. Many reviewers have contributed so significantly to this improvement that they could truly be considered co-authors, although they will remain anonymous and thereby represent the true spirit of the JBP. Obviously, in any human endeavor, mistakes will be made. To those authors whose valuable studies were refused, I offer my sincere apologies.

Among authors, interest in publishing in the JBP has been growing. This fact, together with the demanding and high quality editorial review, promises a bright future for the JBP.

The number of original articles jumped from 25 in 2002 to 48 in 2004. In the same period, the number of published pages grew from 366 to 600, and the circulation per issue increased from 3500 to 5500. Even more impressive is the fact that the BJP currently has an international editorial staff, is fully translated into English and has associate editors both in Brazil and abroad. We are in the final phase of implementing a program that will allow articles to be submitted, reviewed and tracked via the Internet. This is a fundamental advance toward our future<sup>(2)</sup>.

Prof. José Antônio Baddini Martinez will take charge of the JBP, and the transition will be smooth since, as an associate editor and knows our journal very well. Now that we have attained a certain "critical mass",

the JBP may well become a monthly publication under his guidance.

Our challenges are ongoing. We have initiated the process of evaluation for our possible indexing on Medline, a long-standing goal, the realization of which is essential for increasing our international visibility. The JBP is indexed on the databases *Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud* (Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature) and the Scientific Electronic Library Online of Brazil<sup>(3)</sup>. The Brazilian foundation *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior* (Coordination of Personal Advancement in Higher Education, a foundation for postgraduate research support), based on the same classification system used to evaluate postgraduate programs, now classifies the JBP as "National Qualis A". The next step is Medline indexing. Medline, the National Library of Medicine database of the National Institutes of Health, is the online version of the *Index Medicus*<sup>(4)</sup>. The evaluation process might be protracted. The criteria are extensive but include, for instance, the scientific quality of the journal and its international significance. In view of all these facts, we have reason to be greatly optimistic.

Surprisingly, the words written 30 years ago by Prof. Manoel Lopes dos Santos in the first editorial of the then Journal of Pulmonology sound more current than ever: "Our plans are to increase circulation in order to index and gain internationally recognition for [the Journal of Pulmonology]"<sup>(5)</sup>.

Most importantly, my experience as editor of BJP has been extremely rich and gratifying, and it was so thanks to the support of the Brazilian and international scientific communities. To all of you, I am sincerely grateful.

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