

Editorial

A Revista da SPMFR: Missão, Visão e Futuro

The Portuguese Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine: Mission, Vision and Future

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The Portuguese Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine has completed 20 years of existence as a way to promote scientific activity among physicians working on rehabilitation area.

The SPMFR Journal is the privileged mean for the creation and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine field. Scientific journals are the paramount way to disclosure the results of medical investigation and promote evidence-based practice, as a way to achieve the best level of growth of science and technique concerning PRM.

We have a vision for the Portuguese Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine: the affirmation as a reliable and available instrument to improve scientific knowledge and clinical practice keeping the commitment to extend its range to an international basis.

The future development of the journal will depend on multiple factors. First of all is the structure of the editorial team – scientific board, editor-in-chief, associated editors, revisers, as well as technical editors and consultants (as in statistics) – who has the responsibility to validate the scientific quality of submitted papers and the elements for a publishing decision in a constructive perspective.

The second aspect is the optimization and improvement of the review process. Our Peer-review process aims to promote a critical approach to a more qualified review. The possibility of rejection increases the quality of the paper and assists the editorial decision. The uniformity of the review follow published

guidelines and from this edition on the review process will be 'single-blinded'. This quality route is simplified with the recent advances (online submissions and online review and all this aspects – please see <http://spmfrjournal.org>) what ultimately increases the quality of the journal and its reliability among the scientific community.

The content of the journal is another important issue. To improve it we must look to past editions and adjust matters concerning its periodicity, timelines and type of articles published. It's very important to increase the amount of original articles, especially clinical studies of different configurations (randomized controlled trials, observational studies, case-control studies, cross-sectional studies, cohort studies). In spite of its unquestionable interest we should not devaluate other type of articles, as so review articles (submitted or by invitation), consensus articles, clinical case reports and the recently introduced perspective typology.

Immediate open access of the SPMFR journal (e-Pub and Free Full Text) for any user to read, copy, download, distribute, print, or connect with full texts of scientific papers, is a primary goal for this editorial team, and it will be available on the <http://spmfrjournal.org> address. For the moment we will keep the printed format but eventually in the future it may be a good solution to have only a digital format (instead or simultaneous with a printed format).

A major issue of concern relates to the measures of impact, influence, prestige and popularity of a scientific journal. Medical scientific literature is today a network of academic articles connected by citations.

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The concept of scientific impact is multi-dimensional and none bibliometric indicator clearly expresses the state of a particular journal. The journal impact factor (JIF) is the bibliometric measure of greater dissemination and is currently used to evaluate the scientific impact of a journal. It reflects the frequency in which an average article of a journal is cited in a specific period of time. Since it is not the perfect way to measure all the characteristics of a journal since it is purely quantitative, other measures have been developed like the Eigenfactor Score (EFS), the Article Influence Scores (AIS), the SCImago Journal Rank indicator (SJR), or the h-index, with the aim to assess the importance, influence, and prestige of the journals that produce cited articles.

An important factor for the internationalization of the journal is its indexation to SciELO and PubMed Center. The first one is completed since March 2012 and the second is underway.

Other factors are important to promote the journal: open access; publication of consensus and Cochrane

reviews, collaboration with international journals (as the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine); publication of articles in English, and eventually becoming a bilingual journal.

Finally the journal should have as its task to incentive investigation, promote scientific training and, under the auspices of the Portuguese Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, implement some procedures to support and stimulate research with the help of scientific scholarships.

As a member of the Board of the Portuguese Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine and the new Editor-in-chief since past June, I would like to express how honoured I am to succeed the previous Editor-in-chiefs: Professor João Páscoa Pinheiro, Dr. Pedro Cantista and Dra. Catarina Aguiar Branco. It is a remarkable challenge that I hope to be able to respond with the utmost sense of responsibility.

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