

The Portuguese Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine: The End of a Cycle and Path to the Future

A Revista da Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina Física e de Reabilitação: O Fim de um Ciclo e o Caminho para o Futuro

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In the year of 2013, I became Editor-in-Chief of the Portuguese Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (PJPRM) as a member of the recently elected Board of the Portuguese Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine led by Professor Catarina Aguiar Branco. At that time, I presented a new editorial team and published our strategy regarding the vision, mission and future of the journal. This was the beginning of an eight years course to promote the “affirmation as a reliable and available instrument to improve scientific knowledge and clinical practice, and keep on the commitment to extend its range to an international basis”.

The path to its affirmation as a reliable and available scientific instrument has now 28 years long. Since the first edition on 1993, several highlights have changed the vision and the future of the journal, especially the reset process of submission and publication politics in 2010, recognized as a crucial turning point. The indexation to SciELO in 2012 and the first steps to the PubMed indexation process were as well major marks. The indexation process is still ongoing.

The review process, a major issue for credibility and quality of the journal, had some improvement related to the uniformity of the review follow published guidelines by International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and the recommendations of Editorial Politics from Council of Science Editors. Online submissions and online review are quality promoters, with the platform upgrade as a necessary change for a short-term future. The review process remain as ‘single-blind’.

About scientific content of the journal, comparing with past editions, there was an increase of original articles, especially clinical studies of different configurations. For the last eight years, we published 131 scientific articles, in addition to editorials and letters to the editor. Most of these articles were original articles (38%), case reports (27%) and reviews (22%). The remaining articles are perspective/opinion (8% and other types (5%), including for example clinical images. The acceptance-rejection rate is about 7%. This is an important achievement for the scientific quality of the publication.

Looking for the interest of researchers to publish in the journal, there was a progressive increase of submissions and, in 2018, we decided to increase the frequency of editions from two to four per year. For the last eight years, we published 23 editions of the journal.

The journal has its content in an open access model (e-Pub and free full text), available on the <http://spmfrjournal.org> website. The first edition with a new layout and exclusively published in a digital format was “v. 30, n. 1 (2018) Ano 26”.

I want to express my gratitude to the members of the Editorial Board and the 42 associate editors, for their commitment to the development of the journal. A very special thanks to the 105 reviewers who played a crucial role in promoting the quality of the journal. This was really a teamwork, looking for the future as a global way to share results of research and scientific knowledge.

Referências / References

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