

## EDITORIAL

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### **Time of change for the Revista Médica del Uruguay**

The Editorial Board, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Sindicato Médico del Uruguay, agreed to work towards the implementation of a project that aims to improve the quality of the publication

The vision of the founders, as well as the clear editorial policy evident in recent years, resulted in the Revista Médica del Uruguay becoming the most prestigious biomedical publication in the country. Today, the Journal faces a new challenge: to meet the more demanding international standards resulting in a larger diffusion with greater impact of scientific studies by Uruguayan researchers.

The goals are to improve the quality and to optimize the use of SMU resources allocated to the Journal by introducing modifications to its publication and distribution policies.

The new project presumes significant continuities such as double publication (hard copy and electronic), careful reviews of manuscripts by two or more qualified arbiters, and content with a preponderance of original articles. It also supposes important changes such as the following:

**1. Increasing publication frequency.** The goal is to publish 4 issues per year of at least 320 pages each. This is *possible* today thanks to the high volume of manuscripts submitted, and *necessary* to strengthen and position the Revista Médica del Uruguay among those with the highest standards for quality; to access new databases; to continue participation in ScieLO; and to reduce the time between the creation of knowledge and its diffusion into the scientific community.

Presently, all existing obstacles relate to economic shortages resultant primarily from the cost of paper and home distribution of the Journal.

**2. New distribution system.** The design of a new distribution system is essential in order to manage increased frequency without adding additional costs.

A replacement to the traditional distribution system of the hard copy version (over 10,000 copies) sent to each member is being sought. This would combine the home delivery to members in the interior provinces and to the authors of the articles; the mailing to all strategic libraries, whether in-country or abroad; and the maintaining of the exchange system with other publications, with the option for each SMU member to pick up their copy at the union headquarters.

**3. On-line electronic version.** We aim to maintain and improve the current electronic edition in PDF format, which enables members of SMU and all other users world-wide

to access published studies in real time, and, should they so desire, print out the article of interest.

The Journal's electronic version will be improved - equal to all renowned biomedical publications – by designing a new portal with access to a complete table of contents by topic and author (including all issues to date), by offering more powerful search engines, by highlighting the award winning articles, and by announcing titles, authors and summaries of the works accepted for future publication and in process of being published.

**4. New CD-ROM version.** The Project proposes allocating a significant part of savings resultant from changes in paper copy use and distribution to preparing an annual CD-ROM version which includes the complete corresponding volume.

This new product would also include a table of contents by topic and author.

**5. Content.** Implementation of the new project will result in both more availability of space and increased flexibility in distribution times. This will allow for timely inclusion of topics of ethical or epidemiological interest in each issue.

Moreover, it is necessary to implement a more active policy for disseminating guidelines and consensus reached among the different specialties for use by practicing physicians. To this end, all scientific associations will be invited to submit topics of special interests.

Revista Médica del Uruguay emphasizes adherence to its rules and to the publication guidelines for biomedical journals (Vancouver Standards), thus meeting the high level of requirements set forth by the aforementioned group.

In summary, the project aims to improve the quality of our Journal by optimizing the use of existing resources without additional costs.

The new model will provide more space for work done by Uruguayan researchers, and also make their findings more accessible and timely.

For the Editorial Board, a key component of the project is to share the changes we intend to effect with our readers and to be receptive to their ideas, critiques and comments.

We are on our way.

Editorial Board.  
Revista Médica del Uruguay