



## EDITORIAL

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In March this year we were accepted by Scopus, and as I pointed out in that month's editorial,<sup>1</sup> this is an accomplishment of the Journal's community as a whole: the authors, reviewers, readers and editorial staff. But it was also an achievement for the Chilean dentistry, as the *Journal of Oral Research* became the only Chilean dental journal indexed in the prestigious Scopus database. Moreover, the *Journal of Oral Research* is along with the *Revista Cubana de Estomatología* the only two dental journals indexed in Scopus considering articles in Spanish. Although we should remark that peer-review times of our Journal are much shorter than those of the Cuban one. In addition, the *Journal of Oral Research* provides translation into English of all the articles received in Spanish with no charge once they have been accepted.

Therefore, achieving Scopus indexation has meant an incentive, an opportunity and a call to further improve the quality of our Journal. This need for improvement has been strengthened even more after the rejection by SciELO Chile<sup>2</sup> and PubMed Central.<sup>3</sup> We need to improve, not only because of the external evaluations, but also because of our own critical assessments. When we reviewed the statistical data from 2012 to 2015 and compared them with 2016, we were able to observe that this year the Journal has experienced a stagnation of several indicators. For example, the number of visits to our website had been increasing steadily from 2012 to 2015, however this year the number of views is nearly identical as that registered in 2015. The quantity and geographical origin of the articles we have received has not increased. The quality of the articles is the most difficult aspect to assess, and unfortunately we cannot say that quality has seen any kind of improvement this year. In summary, the *modus operandi* of the Journal allowed an undeniable growth during the first four years, but this *modus operandi* seems to be running out of energy. We need to improve.<sup>3</sup>

We need that studies to be published in our Journal improve their quality. This is very easy to say but very

New rules in the *Journal of Oral Research*.

difficult to achieve. To improve the quality of our articles we need to improve the quality of the articles we receive. To improve the quality of the articles we receive, we need to make the Journal more attractive to the experienced researchers conducting high impact research. To attract experienced researchers we need a better-positioned Journal. To get a better-positioned Journal we need to publish better quality articles. In short, we need to improve to be better. We need to move from a vicious circle of stagnation into a virtuous one.

Many of the aspects to be enhanced in a journal, were already enhanced in ours. Among these we can mention our presence on the Web, an expedited peer-review process with international experts, value-added services such as translations with no charge or immediate early publication of accepted articles. On the other hand, there are other aspects to improve, but they are related to external services and that means spending beyond our budget. Then we have little chance to further improve on the current *modus operandi* of the Journal. We need a new *modus*, and that means new rules for the *Journal of Oral Research*.

In the last editorial I pointed out "...the Authors' Guidelines of the journal will be modified during the coming weeks and reported in the next issue's editorial. However, these norms will have little or no value if it is not validated and supported by the community that will be ruled by these norms. We thank all the comments and letters sent to us by the authors, readers, and reviewers to improve our Author Guidelines and the general editorial process". Unfortunately we did not receive comments or suggestions for changes.

Considering the above, we have decided to review the editorial policies, structure and modus of the most important journals in the field of biomedical sciences. Our objective was to identify feasible ways/rules to implement in our Journal in the short term, *i.e.* that can be applied during the last quarter of 2016 in order to be fully operative in 2017.



For all the above, during the last quarter we will be progressively implementing changes in the way our Journal operates. These changes include the reformulation of the categories of manuscripts, changes in the manuscripts submission system, implementation of templates for manuscripts, compulsory use of Equator-Network checklists, and changes in the time and language of early publication.

With respect to the categories of manuscripts, our Journal will accept the following: *Comments*, *Perspectives*, *Communications*, *Articles*, *Cases*, and *Reviews*. *Comments* are manuscripts of 200-400 words plus 3 to 5 updated references to comment documents published by our Journal, books, obituaries and events of interest to the specialty. *Perspectives* are manuscripts of 1000-1500 words plus 5 to 10 updated references that expose a point of view about a relevant topic in oral and craniofacial sciences. *Communications* are manuscripts of 1000-1200 words, with up to 2 tables or figures plus 8 to 10 updated references. These manuscripts focus on reporting brief research results. The *Articles* and *Cases* will have no changes. In the category *Reviews* we will now only accept Systematic and Scoping Reviews. These are manuscript of 3000-5000 words plus 50 to 100 updated references. Narrative reviews will be accepted only by invitation.

During this quarter we will begin to test the submission system of the OJS, and we will evaluate if the platform provides a better service than e-mail.

Manuscript's templates will also be implemented for the different categories of manuscripts. The aim of using templates is that manuscripts include all the necessary information and be structured in a way that contributes to a better outcome of the peer-review. In addition to the manuscript's templates, authors should send the Equator-Network checklist that was used to prepare that specific manuscript.

From this quarter, accepted articles will not be published immediately, the same day of acceptance. In the case of articles in Spanish, these will be freely translated to English by our editorial team. Then the article will be prepared in PDF format with the respective DOI number. After completing these stages it will be published in the Early publications section of the Journal.

It is important to note that all these actions are intended to improve the quality of manuscripts published in our Journal, but improvement does not depend on rules. The quality of our Journal can only continue to improve with the commitment of the community that is the authors, reviewers, readers and editorial team of the *Journal of Oral Research*.

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## REFERENCES.

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