EDITORIAL

What are we and what do we expect to become?☆
¿Qué somos y qué queremos ser?

A major medical association needs a powerful, exciting, balanced, training medical journal, which is attractive to authors and readers, and which is also sustainable, so that it can endure. ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS, official journal of the Spanish Association of Urology and the American Urological Confederation, will soon meet its fourth decade. A firm journey in which 2 generations of urologists have been the main architects and have been trained with its lines and works... ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS has experienced firsthand the exciting scientific development of our profession.

At our most recent stage, I mean the last 4 years, many good things have happened. Coinciding with the celebration of the centenary of our association, the first impact factor of ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS (FI 2010) was recognized in 2011. With hard work, perseverance, and quite rightly we have been able to gradually increase it in subsequent years, until we achieved that today ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS is in an improved position in the order of the specialty. According to Journal Citation Report (JCR) Science Edition ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS is 57 out of 73 journals in the category Urology & Nephrology worldwide. Similarly, SCImago Journal & Country Rank considers it in 28th position (Q2/Q3) out of 55. This has even more merit when we recognize that ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS has overtaken many other journals of our discipline, journals in which we have looked frequently and with a degree of admiration. The rest of urological publications in Spanish are not even on the list and the ones written in French, German or Italian are well below.

If we pay attention to the list of Spanish journals of different medical and non-medical disciplines that have their impact factor recognized in Thomson Reuters ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS is again in a very respectable position. Out of 125 magazines ours rank twenty-sixth in order. This has merit, especially considering that 13 of those leading it have an English name and are widespread in the English-speaking world.

But let us focus on the key point of this editorial. ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS is what it is for its history, for the work of many authors and reviewers, and because we carried out a firm strategic plan for the years 2011–2014, the result of the desire to professionalize the past board of directors of our association, which placed their trust in our work to enhance the brand image of our journal, its valuation in the international metric systems and make it the true scientific bastion of urology in Spanish. Integration of Latin America in our project has not been a cliché, but a true reality. The fruits have been achieved by publishing quality articles with citing potential. The editorial process thanks to very good reviewers, some of them recognized and thanked in this issue, has achieved many small ‘artworks’ published on our pages. The increase of the impact and recognition to work also came. More recently we have achieved early and simultaneous online publication in Spanish and English, which in addition to the full text publication in PubMed will amplify the valuable citation of our journal.

But the challenges do not end. We are now facing the demise of the paper version and the migration to the digital format only from 2015, and the renewed improvement of the panel of reviewers engaged in a quality lively editorial process. We must also try to achieve a better valuation in the English-speaking world, because like it or not, the best science is written in English. A new strategic plan for ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS 2015–2018 is needed, which a new management team will face resolutely in order to use the important achievements already made as a springboard and get even further. We know what we are and what we expect to become.

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