A NEW PHASE  A NEW CHALLENGE

UNA NUEVA ETAPA UN NUEVO RETO

GARCÍA-FEIJÓÓ J

When I was appointed editor of the Archivos journal of the Spanish Ophthalmology Society, I assumed a commitment to all members. With the help of the editorial council members, in the next years I will endeavor to adapt it to the requirements of the 21st century, strengthen the links with American and European ophthalmological communities and maintain Archivos as the reference journal of Spanish-language ophthalmology.

First, I would like to emphasize the work of the editors and editorial council members who have preceded me. It was because of them and the authors who contributed with their research that the journal remained alive since its first issue in 1901 under the title of «Archivos de Oftalmología Hispa-noamericanos» led by Drs. De Micheri (Montevideo), Santos Fernández (Havana) and Menacho (Barcelona). I would also like to acknowledge the effort made by Prof. Pastor which led to the inclusion of the journal in Medline in 2000. This heralded a new stage in which ophthalmology in Spanish attained an international dimension. Therefore, all the members of the Spanish Society must be grateful for his work. In recent years, the position of the journal has consolidated under the direction of Prof. Benítez del Castillo. Thus, with the objective of increasing its circulation, we have included in our website the full contents of the journal, now available in English. I would like to thank Prof. Benítez and Drs. García Layana and Encinas, who are no longer members of the editorial council, for the years they dedicated to the journal and wish them all the best in the new professional challenges they chose to assume.

The journal must continue its progress. The beginning of this new stage calls for a critical analysis of the situation in order to determine areas of improvement. The delay in the English language version, the slight delay in the postal delivery of the journal, the reduced number of evaluators and the website management are the issues to be addressed in the short term. In this task, I am fortunate to have the assistance of the new editorial council members. I would like to thank all of them for agreeing to lend their efforts to the Society. I ask them, and all Society members, to maintain a critical spirit allowing for the improvement of the journal day after day.

My dream is that the journal will obtain admittance in the ISI and impact index. It is true that English is the language of scientific communication, but Spanish is the third language in global communication. On the other hand, there are journals in French or German which have impact index and the scientific production capacity of Spanish-speaking ophthalmologists is undisputed. Therefore, the challenge and the goal of the new editorial council is to make this dream come true. This process will take years but, in order to fulfill it, steps must be taken for the journal to achieve sufficient quality and punctuality to obtain a positive evaluation. In the first place, it is crucial to improve and update the process of delivery and review of articles. In this area, the mid-term objective is to eliminate paper and postal deliveries to channel the entire editorial process through the website. In addition, quality controls of the methodology utilized in articles will be established. Fortunately, the number of papers we receive allow us to maintain the monthly publication period but it is necessary to improve the efficiency of the evaluation process. In this process, the role of the evaluators is essential. We ask of them an additional effort to meet the deadlines and we also ask all ophthalmologists reading these lines

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to propose evaluators (Spanish or foreign) to add to the team. This is the only way to shorten the period from the initial reception of the papers to final publication, with have enough time to establish final quality controls.

Although the work of the editor and director of the editorial council can be important to propose objectives, lines of work, focus efforts and carry out daily activities, a journal represents all the members of a Society and all its authors. In better terms, the journal IS the Society and its authors. For this reason we need your help and suggestions to reach the common goal. Ensuring the co-operation of new evaluators, adhering to the evaluation periods, maintaining the workflows, disseminating the journal in the Spanish-speaking world are, among others, the joint tasks of the Society. Accordingly, I ask all its members for their help in reaching our common goal of having a Spanish language journal with impact index. It is a dream which, to become true, must be owned by each and every one of the members of the Spanish Ophthalmology Society.