

When ARCHIVOS DE BRONCONEUMOLOGÍA Came of Age

M. Perpiñá Tordera

Servicio de Neumología, Hospital Universitario La Fe, Valencia, Spain.

Four years after Dr. Víctor Sobradillo, then president of the Spanish Society of Pulmonology and Thoracic Surgery (SEPAR), charged me with the task of editing ARCHIVOS DE BRONCONEUMOLOGÍA, the time has come to hand the journal on to a new editor in the understanding that the goals set out at the beginning of my stewardship have been met.

During this time, the journal has changed in certain purely formal ways and also—and this is important—in its editorial process. The recent creation of an author's page on the web—at www.archbronconeumol.org—where manuscripts can be submitted electronically has streamlined the editorial task and facilitated communication with authors in real time. Further, an enormous effort has been made to familiarize the scientific community with ARCHIVOS DE BRONCONEUMOLOGÍA and its content. To that end, each issue is made fully available in English on the web, open access, with links to each translation on MEDLINE only a few days after the traditional paper edition has been published.

Without doubt, however, the most substantial achievement has been the journal's acceptance for indexing by the main databases of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)—Science Citation Index Expanded, ISI Alerting Services, and Current Contents/Clinical Medicine¹—and the subsequent publication of the first ISI-calculated impact factor of 0.885.² Although some might consider that figure modest, the truth is otherwise in my opinion. It clearly represents a leap forward both quantitatively and qualitatively, particularly if considered against our starting point. A study by García et al³ revealed that the estimated impact factor of ARCHIVOS DE BRONCONEUMOLOGÍA ranged from 0.089 in 1998 to 0.119 in 2000. The forecast for the coming year is promising.

The last chapter left to write is that of acknowledgments. Here I must first extend full recognition to the authors who have continued to believe in the journal—our journal, one belonging to all of us—throughout this period, as they chose it as the instrument through which to make their ideas and research public. They are the ones who have in fact brought about our journal's progress and brought us to maturity. Clearly, too, acknowledgment of our authors must be extended to

our referees, whose reviews and corrections have helped us follow editorial policy and maintained the level of scientific content.

Sincere thanks must also be extended to Ediciones Doyma, S.L., whose dedication and logistical support have provided the foundation for our project. The Publisher, Dr. Josep Lluís Segú; the Editor in Chief, Joan Juan Loshuertos; the Managing Editor, José Alonso, and our Editorial Assistant, Antoni Donate, have worked shoulder to shoulder with us, giving constructive support to the projects we have conceived. In addition, I must mention the work carried out by Mary Ellen Kerans, who is managing translation tasks with care and attention to detail in a way that has allowed us to improve the final product.

Finally, it is of course of greatest importance that I express my deepest gratitude to those who have shared the task of editing ARCHIVOS DE BRONCONEUMOLOGÍA with me throughout these 4 years: Doctors Casan Clarà, García Río, Sánchez de León, and Xaubet Mir. Through their initiatives, support, and counsel they have not only enormously eased the daily labor of editing but have also facilitated decisions and kept us on a steady course. My thanks and feeling of personal friendship are theirs.

ARCHIVOS DE BRONCONEUMOLOGÍA is now clearly not—and in fact never has been—either a frivolous organ or an obligatory luxury of the organizations to which it belongs—the Spanish Society of Pulmonology and Thoracic Surgery (SEPAR) and the Latin American Thoracic Society (ALAT). ARCHIVOS DE BRONCONEUMOLOGÍA has become a publication with prestige and international reach, useful for efficiently making the results of scientific activity available in the Spanish language.

Our journal has surely come of age now and is preparing to take on the challenges the future will bring. All of us have the duty to continue working at what we know how to do best: grow and maintain our role as a journal of reference in respiratory medicine and thoracic surgery. I sincerely believe the task is worthy of our best effort.

Many thanks to all of you for your work and collaboration.

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Correspondence: Dr. M. Perpiñá Tordera.
Servicio de Neumología, Hospital Universitario La Fe.
A. Campanar, 21. 46009 Valencia. España.
E-mail: perpinya_mig@gva.es