

EMERGENCIAS: Following in footsteps of big brother

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Little ones always notice and copy their big brothers and sisters, who trod the same path before them. It is natural for them to imitate their elders' mannerisms, poses, attitudes, reactions and responses. Despite the disadvantages of being younger and smaller (big brother is always big brother), they sometimes manage to outdo the big ones. And all is done in their unique, personal idiosyncratic way which underlines that marvellous quality of individuality.

Similarly, EMERGENCIAS should notice and copy all that is good from prestigious scientific journals. They are its big brothers. Without considering possible bias of viewpoint, a good reference list of such journals is probably that included in *Journal Citation Report* (JCR) in its section entitled "Emergency Medicine", one of 171 disciplines classifying the 5.928 journals covered by this catalogue. In its 2007 report, 12 journals were listed, with impact factors ranging from 3.500 *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, to 0.345 *Journal of Emergency Nursing* (Table 1). To these 12 journals should be added the *European Journal of Emergency Medicine*¹ and *Emergency Medicine Australasia*² which have been formally accepted by JCR and will obtain their first official impact factor ratings for 2008 and 2009, respectively. Clearly, every new inclusion in JCR of a new journal of Emergency Medicine and Emergencias represents a success worthy of congratulation for anyone working in this field. Firstly, because it is a reflection and at the same time recognition of the growing research being done in our speciality in the world, and secondly because it represents an opportunity to publish our work in visible, internationally renowned journals with impact factors, and the benefit that implies for our curriculae, both individually and team-wise.

EMERGENCIAS has long been following its big brothers. In addition, it has sought their advice

and collaboration, received in a way that is frank, loyal, disinterested and enriching.

This is shown in the other editorial included in this issue, where Anthony Brown describes his experience in improving the quality of a biomedical journal and gives some clues as to how EMERGENCIAS may manage to emulate the successes of the journal he directs. In this line over the last few years, EMERGENCIAS has taken some important steps to close the gap on its big brothers, as shown in previous issues³⁻⁹. We have increased the number of pages containing scientific material (from 327 pages in 2006 to 444 in 2008, up by 36%), attracted a greater number of papers by professionals doing research in the emergency field (from 113 manuscripts received in 2006 to 197 in 2008, up by 74%), improved editorial process time (from 130 days for a definitive response to authors in 2006 to 97 days in 2008, up by 25%), published all the articles since 2007 in two languages (Spanish and English) in the online version, implemented (from the beginning of 2009) electronic processing of all submissions with indexing in relevant Spanish data bases (Índice Médico Español –IME–, Índice Bibliográfico Español en

Table 1. Journals included in the discipline Emergency Medicine and Emergencias in *Journal Citation Reports* 2007, with corresponding impact factors

Journal	Impact factor 2007
<i>Annals of Emergency Medicine</i>	3.500
<i>Resuscitation</i>	2.550
<i>Journal of Burn Care and Rehabilitation</i>	2.421
<i>Academic Emergency Medicine</i>	1.990
<i>Injury</i>	1.509
<i>The American Journal of Emergency Medicine</i>	1.164
<i>Emergency Medicine Journal</i>	0.929
<i>Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America</i>	0.876
<i>Journal of Emergency Medicine</i>	0.813
<i>Pediatric Emergency Care</i>	0.581
<i>Unfallchirurg</i>	0.560
<i>Journal of Emergency Nursing</i>	0.345

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DATE OF RECEIPT: 12-1-2009. **DATE OF ACCEPTANCE:** 15-1-2009.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

Ciencias de la Salud –IBECS–, the *Scientific Electronic Library Online* –SciELO España–, the DIALNET site portraying Spanish language scientific production, and the nursing data base in Spanish of the Fundación Index CUIDEN) and recently we have solicited inclusion in international reference data bases including EMBASE and *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature* (CINAHL).

For the first time, at the end of the year, we will request indexing of EMERGENCIAS in MedLine and in *Science Citation Index*, the two main international data bases.

We believe that we are now in condition to request all this, despite no guarantee of success, but without any sort of inferiority complex. We therefore wish to launch an appeal, especially directed at specialists in researchers in the field of emergency medicine who publish in indexed journals: it is crucial not to omit citation of any article published in EMERGENCIAS, especially recent issues, since those citations are what are counted by JCR to calculate the impact factor. Such citation, although not the only factor nor the most important, carries considerable weight in the decision on whether or not to include a journal in important international data bases. In fact, thanks to recent citation of our journal by researchers, it is enormously gratifying to announce that the impact factor of EMERGENCIAS for 2008 is 0.583 considering that it is based solely on 42 citations recorded by *Science Citation Index* (SCI), and 1,458 if to these we add 63 self-citations (in EMERGENCIAS itself).

All this represents confirmation of a positive tendency as from last year (Figure 1) and, assuming no falloff, means the medium-term attainment of the objectives set out in EMERGER project³. During this year, EMERGENCIAS will publish a more exhaustive analysis of its real situation regarding various bibliometric indicators, allowing a sound appraisal of its current quality.

From a more private perspective, I have to admit to enjoying the last two years of working, almost daily, for the journal EMERGENCIAS. It is a pleasure to read and evaluate submissions, and collaborate in some cases to help improve the manuscript, in order to improve the final quality of the journal. It is also an honour to be able to count on such an involved Editorial Committee,

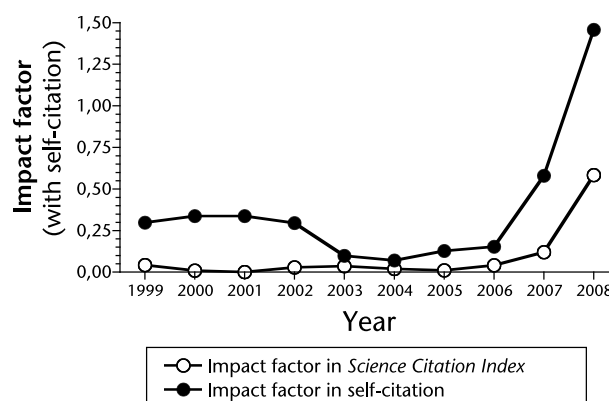


Figure 1. Evolution of the journal EMERGENCIAS impact factor, estimated by only considering citations recorded by *Science Citation Index* (white circles) and considering self-citation (black circles).

which lightens editorial tasks and decisions, and makes the whole EMERGER project more enjoyable. This personal well-being is probably also due to the support and recognition received from you all. I believe that EMERGENCIAS is on an exciting path, full of certainties and possibilities. Among the former, the path leads inexorably to improved quality; among the possibilities, one day the journal will be recognised by the JCR as prestigious in the field of Emergency Medicine and Emergencies. We only need conviction, perseverance, and all of us, without ever losing sight of what big brother is doing.

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