

The EMERGER project: *A bonis ad meliora*

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The EMERGER project was launched in January 2007; its ultimate goal is to promote the journal EMERGENCIAS to the highest possible level for a scientific journal¹. The idea, more alive today than ever, is to situate it among the top Spanish scientific and international Emergency Medicine (EM) journals in terms of quality and prestige. When I accepted the post of Editor, I presented to the Board of the Spanish Society of EM (SEMES) a plan designed to achieve this goal which, without setting time limits, necessarily involves three distinct phases: improve the quality of the magazine, attain indexing in all relevant world databases, and raise it to be one of the leading EM journals.

Three years later, with 19 issues of EMERGENCIAS published, I believe the first part of the EMERGE project has clearly been achieved. From a scientific point of view, the journal is in very good health: the number and quality of works submitted is increasingly higher. The articles currently published may be considered as being in the vanguard of Spanish research in EM. The Editorial Committee of EMERGENCIAS is preparing an article that analyzes the progress we all feel is taking place, backed by rational and scientific data. As an indication of what that article contains, Figure 1 shows the evolution of EMERGENCIAS estimated impact factor, the most widely used marker of overall quality of a biomedical journal, over the last 11 years. As can be seen, EMERGENCIAS has greatly improved during the last three years corresponding to the EMERGE project. Thus, during 2009, the Web of Science database records 74 citations of articles published in EMERGENCIAS 2007 and 2008, bringing its impact factor up to 0.771, a value never before achieved by this journal.

I therefore believe that the first phase objective has been achieved, although the Editorial Board will continue to strive for improvement wherever possible. Each new issue of EMERGENCIAS will in-

clude small changes or corrections with respect to previous ones in order to improve formal aspects and intrinsic quality^{2,4}. For example, the regular reader will have noticed that: in this first issue of 2010, the text printed on the spine now runs in the opposite direction (to adapt to ISO publishing norms); the Clinical Notes now appear after Brief Originals (thereby grouping all the new scientific material together); new members have been incorporated into the National and International Editorial Boards as well as the Committee of Experts (for everyone actively working in the EMERGE project to feel represented and rewarded); there is a new section entitled "EMERGENCIAS in five minutes" (for readers to quickly get an idea of the most relevant contents of the journal, and for periodic content dissemination to the media); and the launch of the second course in "Continuous training in Emergency Medicine" (for regular readers wishing to obtain 5 official credits in this discipline. And there will be more, in accordance with the philosophy of the project: *a bonis ad meliora*).

It is obvious that what has been achieved so far must be corroborated by external auditors. And so we have commissioned these auditors, because we are already fully immersed in the second phase of the project EMERGE. In fact, EMERGENCIAS started down this road a few months ago and is already included in all relevant Spanish databases: Índice Médico Español (IME), Índice Bibliográfico Español en Ciencias de la Salud (IBECS), Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO-España), DIALNET (website for the dissemination of Spanish scientific production, University of La Rioja) and CUIDEN (Nursing database in Spanish). And we have applied for inclusion in the main international databases: EM-BASE / Excerpta Medica, SCOPUS, BioMed Central, CINAHL, MedLine and Web of Science. While waiting for their responses, EMERGENCY and the EMERGE project will continue without major con-

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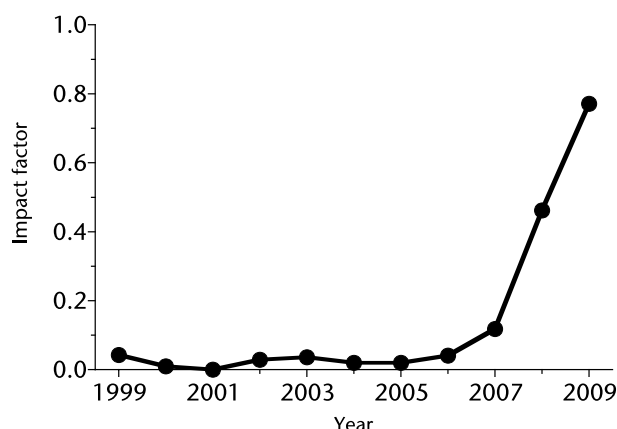


Figure 1. Evolution of EMERGENCIAS impact factor estimated according to citations recorded by Web of Knowledge for the period 1999-2009.

cerns because, as said here by my colleague Anthony Brown, editor of *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, "Once a journal's mission and readership aims have been decided and targeted, and its editorial and publishing process implemented and refined, it is then a matter of time and patience to watch the acorn grow into a small tree"⁵.

The greatest asset of the EMERGE project is undoubtedly its Editorial Board. In this regard, there have been some changes that I would like to mention. Dr. Santiago Tomás is no longer performing the work of assistant Editor in order to take charge, exclusively, of managing the journal's Monographs. Without his dedication and faith in the project, nothing would have been the same. Thank you very much, Santi. His editorial place has been filled, since last October, by Dr. Agustín Julián, an EM specialist at Hospital Virgen de la Salud, Toledo, and an expert in infectious diseases, whose incorporation I must say for those who do not know him represents a great boon for the journal. In addition to his assigned editorial duties, he will directly edit the section "EMERGENCIAS in five minutes", and in this issue the reader will be able to appreciate his capacity and worth. In addition, as from last December, we have been joined by Dr. F. Javier Martín, an EM specialist and geriatrician from Hospital Clínico San Carlos in Madrid.

The rising volume of work submitted for publication has made more help necessary for timely delivery to your mailboxes each month. He will especially take on the task of assessing and editing material coming beyond our borders, which in 2009 represented over 10% of the papers submitted to EMERGENCIAS, a significant part of which comes from the Anglo-Saxon world. He will endeavour to make all this material reach you with the highest possible quality. And I can vouch that it will. Finally, in this second stage we have the honour of continued support of Drs. Guillermo Burillo, Miquel Sanchez and Andres Pacheco, and the invaluable help, talent and patience of Ms. Carmen Ibanez, without whom we would not have been able to reach the current level of quality in such a short time. Moreover, following the lead provided by other quality Spanish scientific journals, the names of positions held have been changed: "Writing Secretary" becomes "Editorial Assistant", the "Writers" becomes "Section Editors", the "Sub-editors" becomes "Associate Editors" and the "Director" becomes "The Editor".

And I can not close this first phase of the project without thanking the Boards of SEMES, previous and present, for providing the Emerge project, which they have embraced as their own, with the necessary means at all times. An indication of their commitment: at the request of the Editorial Committee, the whole contents of the journal EMERGENCIAS since 2007 has now been fully translated into English.

The Emerge project now enters the second phase, with more strength and conviction than ever.

References

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- 4 Miró O. *Emergencias*: tras los pasos de sus hermanos mayores. *Emergencias*. 2009;21:1-2.
- 5 Brown AFT. ¿Qué hacer para ser una buena revista? *Emergencias*. 2009;21:3-4.