

Nenikekamen (We have won!)

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Sometimes, against all the odds, the gods intervene and victory is made possible. Thus, 2,500 years ago the city of Athens, outnumbered and ill-equipped, defeated the all-powerful Persian army at the battle of Marathon¹.

Similarly, five years ago the journal EMERGENCIAS began an uphill battle to gain the highest possible international recognition as a scientific journal of prestige in the field of accident and emergency medicine (EM). To this end, the project EMERGER marked out a roadmap in 2007 which aimed to culminate with our inclusion in the international journal Web of Science (WoS) and Journal Citation Reports (JCR) and thereby obtain an impact factor (IF)². EMERGENCIAS faced a real challenge with a host of negative factors. In an increasingly specialized medical world, the fact of being a Spanish journal on a specialty that is not recognized in Spain is an enormous handicap. As a result, there is no structured medical residency program, which in turn means that EM researchers' profile is generally low in comparison with the rest of our medical colleagues³. Another related problem is that the material submitted to EMERGENCIAS is, in theory, not of the highest scientific quality. In addition, any outstanding research work in EM is mostly submitted to other journals with greater prestige and impact.

When the EMERGER Project began, there was only token citation of EMERGENCIAS articles in the WoS data-base: a single valid citation for calculating the IF in 2005 and four in 2006, which did not bode well for indexation in the short or medium term. And the fact that EMERGENCIAS was only published in Spanish did not help matters. The language of scientific communication in the 21st century remains English. Thus, the USA and the UK published almost half the journals included by JCR in 2009 (4,106 of more than

9,100) while Spain only published 60 journals (27 in Spanish, 20 in English and 13 are multi-lingual). Lastly, our publishing house SANED, responsible for EMERGENCIAS since more than 10 years ago, is small and limited - a far cry from the the world's main publishers of biomedical journals with gigantic resources available. For example, the leading world publishing group Elsevier⁴ publishes over 2,000 periodic journals (806 of which are indexed in JCR for the year 2009⁵), has its own index system (SCOPUS) and, moreover, is quite capable of positively influencing the process of indexing a particular journal.

Knowing the limitations, the project EMERGER started its own private battle of Marathon with three virtues which have turned out to be essential: hope, work and belief in final victory. These were shared day by day by all those who embarked on the project and those who supported it, from the different Editorial Boards of SEMES to that of SANED itself; and to each of the researchers who submitted their work to us, sometimes of a quality that warranted publication in other biomedical journals with an IF. Sacrificing small things for greater gains. Thank you, comrades. And thank you to all the reviewers who voluntarily gave up their free time and offered their expertise to help improve all those manuscripts. From all these shows of complicity, this Editor found the means to overcome the difficulties faced by the project EMERGER. All the steps and advances have been well recognized by our readers⁶⁻⁸, who after all are the objective of a quality journal. But the very best of this whole project has undoubtedly been the different colleagues making up the Editorial Committee since inception; they have shown constant hope, work and belief. Figure 1 is graphic testimony of these colleagues. And we cannot forget the professional

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RECEIVED: 27-10-2010. **ACCEPTED:** 2-11-2010.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None



Figure 1. From left to right, the different members of the EMERGER project: Miquel Sánchez (2007 to date), Agustín Julián (2009 to date), Francisco Javier Martín (2009 to date), Óscar Miró (2007 to date), Andrés Pacheco (2007 to date), Santiago Tomás (2007-2009) and Guillermo Burillo (2007 to date).

competence and drive of our Editorial Assistant Carmen Ibáñez, who has contributed decisively in the progressive improvement of the editorial quality of EMERGENCIAS.

So, with daily endeavour and renewed enthusiasm with each published issue, our goals have become more and more attainable. Recognition by many of you regarding the work being carried out by our Editorial Committee has been of invaluable help. So too has been the encouragement, expressed in our own pages of EMERGENCIAS^{9,10}, of the Editors of prestigious journals in the field of EM already indexed in JCR. Today, like Pheidippedes to the Athenians 2,500 years ago, this Editor can proclaim Neníkekamen. We have won! WoS has accepted the inclusion of EMERGENCIAS in its list of indexed journals, in Science Citation Index Expanded and in JCR. In addition, this will be done with retrospective effect as from 2008, so in the forthcoming edition of JCR to be published in mid-2011, EMERGENCIAS will have its first IF rating, corresponding to the year 2010. This is most unusual since the normal process for a new journal to be assigned an IF involves a two-year wait. Undoubtedly, this is a great victory for EM physicians.

Just as the battle of Marathon did not mean final victory, so our inclusion in WoS and JCR is not the end of the road. The Athenians still had to unite the rest of the Greek city states and win

subsequent battles against the Persians, the most famous being those of Thermopylae, Salamis, Plataea and Eurymedon. Only then was peace established at Calias and the Greeks (i.e. EM physicians) managed to dissuade the Persians (i.e. the opponents of the specialty of EM) from further attempts to dominate the Aegean Sea area (i.e. the MIR system). EM in Spain has won important international recognition with the inclusion of EMERGENCIAS in WoS and JCR, but the final victory will only come with official approval of the specialty and implementation of a specific resident training program. Without it, Marathon will be no more than a sweet memory. With approval, EM will enter its own age of Pericles, the golden epoch of classical Greece to which our current civilization owes so much.

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