
We shall overcome

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Two thousand fourteen is here and with it comes a new volume of EMERGENCIAS. Last year showed the increasing researcher confidence in our journal once more. We received 767 manuscripts in 2013, 34% more than in 2012 (Figure 1)¹. Of these, 30% (227) were articles of original research. Editorial response times, presented in Table 1, have improved but are still susceptible to further reduction, and are therefore an objective to be achieved in the coming months. Good Editorial Committee response times are a sign of respect for the authors and maturity of the journal itself.

The increasing number of submissions has certain parallel effects that I would like to briefly outline. First, the acceptance rate has continued to decrease, since the number of pages published is essentially the same (516 in 2013). This acceptance rate stood at 15% in 2013 (114 of 742 submissions where a decision was made), which means it is becoming increasingly difficult for authors to get their work published in EMERGENCIAS, at the same time increasing Editorial capacity to select better manuscripts. Competition for available space we interpret as good and desirable. Furthermore, over the years, certain sections of the journal have been saturated with a large number of accepted papers. This is especially evident in the sections Letters to the Editor and Images, for which the time to publication of accepted papers exceeded 18 months at the end of 2013. To solve the problem for Letters to the Editor, the scientific society behind the journal, SEMES, agreed to increase the number of pages published in the last issue of 2013 to 22 letters. This has reduced publication delay to less than 12 months for this section. As for the section Images, although the last issue of 2013 also included, exceptionally, 4 papers and the present issue contains 3 papers, the backlog is still high (25) and the Editorial Board has reluctantly decided to temporarily cease

to consider new submissions to this section during the years 2014 and 2015. So, authors who would have submitted papers in the Images format are now encouraged to submit their work for possible publication in the Letters to the Editor section, with the corresponding changes in format.

EMERGENCIAS is now receiving more than 5% of the manuscripts written in English. Many of them come from non-Spanish speaking countries (work has been submitted from USA, Australia, China, Taiwan, Iran, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Austria, Brazil and Turkey) and some come from Spanish authors. This situation is considered desirable by the Editorial Committee: it shows that EMERGENCIAS is expanding its traditionally Spanish-speaking authorship, but involves additional costs of translation into Spanish that have begun to be significant. Therefore, as announced in the last issue of 2013, EMERGENCIAS now requires that authors whose papers are submitted in English, and accepted for publication, provide a certificate of linguistic quality of their manuscript and an economic contribution to cover the costs of translation into Spanish. This will enable SEMES members to continue to receive their copies of the journal, in Spanish, without additional costs. The Editorial Committee believes the Spanish language is in a phase of expansion as a vehicle for scientific communication and our journal is very much part of this^{2,3}.

The EMERGE project is alive. And like all live projects, it continues to mature and evolve. This year sees changes in the Editorial Committee. On the one hand, Santiago Tomás and Alonso Mateos leave the Editorial Committee for various reasons. Santiago Tomás, after 10 years of direct involvement, has decided to leave this work to pursue other projects, essentially linked with his national leadership in patient safety programs⁴⁻⁸. For those of you who did not know, Santiago Tomás was a

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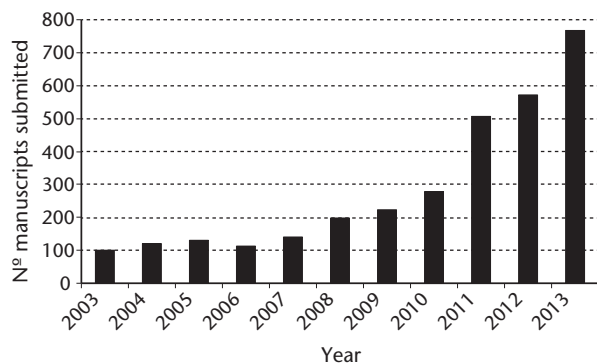


Figure 1. Evolution of the annual number of manuscripts submitted to the Editorial Committee of the Journal EMERGENCIAS.

key figure of the change that began in EMERGENCIAS in 2007, and has been instrumental in all the success achieved to date⁹⁻¹¹. Furthermore, he will almost certainly continue to collaborate on multiple aspects of what has been one of his main projects in recent years - the Journal of SEMES. Thank you, Santi, for all your time and dedication. Alonso Mateos has, during his two years of service on the Editorial Committee, played a fundamental role in the promotion of research in out-of-hospital Emergency Medicine, in which field he is a major figure in Spain¹⁶⁻¹⁸, as evidenced in some of our pages¹²⁻¹⁵. From now on, along with Guillermo Burillo, he will be co-directing the journal *Mono-grafías de Emergencias* and coordinating Courses of Continuing Medical Education in Emergency Medicine. We believe that in this new venture, he will once again demonstrate his vast teaching skills and, with his knowledge of emergency medical systems, provide valuable input for both these eminently educational activities.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce two new additions to the Editorial Committee. On the one hand, Manuel Jesús Vázquez Lima, a specialist in Family and Community Medicine, whose professional activity has, since the completion of residency, been linked with the practice of emergency medicine in all its facets: first-line attention and organization (he is currently the coordinator of the Emergency Department, Hospital do Salnes, Villagarcía de Arosa, Pontevedra), teaching (especially in the areas of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and subaquatic medicine) and research. In the latter area, he has authored a dozen publications in EMERGENCIAS, some in recent years¹⁹⁻²⁴, and is about to read his doctoral thesis on carbon monoxide poisoning. He is also currently a Board member of EuSEM (European Society of Accident and Emergency Medicine) and maintains close relationships with European emer-

Table 1. Editorial decision and review times for manuscripts submitted to the Journal EMERGENCIAS in 2013

	N	Mean accepted (days)	Mean rejected (days)	Overall mean (days)
Editorial	15	3	66	15
Original Articles	108	116	32	49
Brief Original	17	78	14	25
Clinical notes	79	96	13	15
Review Articles	22	160	24	86
Special Article	9	77	-	77
Consensus Document	2	49	-	49
Point of View	6	30	18	24
Images	90	51	40	41
Letters to the Editor	130	37	25	28
Total	478	69	28	36

gency physicians. The potential value of incorporating Manuel Jesús Vázquez Lima to the Editorial Board is multiple, especially from the perspective of smaller hospitals, necessary to complete the range of quality research in emergency medicine. On the other hand, we have Aitor Alquézar, an emergency physician currently working in Hospital Sant Pau, to complete the Editorial Committee for the next two years. After completing the specialty of Internal Medicine, Aitor Alquézar has devoted a major part of his activity to research in infectious diseases, supplemented by a Master's degree in HIV from the University of Barcelona and another in Public Health from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Like Manuel Jesús Vázquez Lima, he is currently completing his doctoral thesis, in this case on the role of biomarkers, essentially high sensitivity troponin in the management of chest pain in the Emergency Department. He is the author of twenty publications in indexed journals, some of which are high-end journals in their respective fields²⁵⁻³⁰. Notably, many of these are large international multicenter studies which we Spanish EPs would like to emulate. The increasing complexity of research and manuscripts submitted to EMERGENCIAS, his epidemiological experience and emergency physician perspective will surely become an indispensable asset for the Journal.

So 2014 promises to be an exciting year on all fronts for EMERGENCIAS. We will try again to be indexed on MedLine, and to convince the Ministry of Health of the need for emergency medicine to be a primary specialty in its own right. We will also address the competent authorities in Europe about this issue. And we will move forward together, fighting for this cause and remembering the words of the gospel song that so many groups have sung together: We shall overcome ... some day.

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