

EDITORIAL

EMERGENCIAS 2020 – and beyond

EMERGENCIAS 2020... y más allá

Òscar Miró

In this issue, EMERGENCIAS begins a new decade that will surely be accompanied with happiness in terms of goals achieved. Among them, the main one: to continue to be the most important vehicle for the dissemination of scientific activity and advances in knowledge in the specialty of Emergency Medicine (EM) in Spanish. In fact, the editorial work will be based in the coming years on giving continuity to the evolution of the Journal over the past decade, which has placed it in privileged positions within the world panorama of biomedical publications¹. During this period, EMERGENCIAS consolidated its permanent position in the first quartile of EM journals based on the impact factor (IF) published annually by Journal Citation Reports (JCR), while always remaining among the three most relevant journals in the world published in Spanish^{2,3}.

But that is not all. The internal editorial processes have evolved alongside. Just to give an example, just look at the total editorial response times. For instance, from the initial registration of the manuscript in the electronic editorial system to the final response of acceptance or rejection for publication, time has been significantly reduced (Figure 1) to an average final response time of 25 days and a 90th percentile of 57 days (i.e., 90% of the authors know the final result of the evaluation process in less than two months). As expected, this process is longer when the final manuscript is

accepted, a situation that occurred in 776 of the 2730 manuscripts analyzed during the period 2012-2019 (28% acceptance), since often the editors request clarifications from the authors, which are facilitated by the peer review process, generating further revisions until the final decision is reached^{4,5}.

On the other hand, EMERGENCIAS has redefined its content on multiple occasions, the last one being recently^{6,7}. Thus, the new section Scientific Letters initiated in 2019 is progressing well, with good acceptance by researchers. In fact, it has become a useful tool for the publication not only of collections of clinical cases with the same disease, but also of the results of research with less need for data transmission than those published in the Originals section. The prototype research to be published in this new section would be that carried out with a limited number of patients, in which the question posed and the results obtained to answer can be simplified in this format. These studies would be based on surveys, but with a well-defined universe represented in the results. This universe would cover very determined groups, very specific questions or limited geographical areas (which do not cover the entire State or an autonomous community), and therefore their conclusions would not be applicable to a large population. Some examples already published can illustrate the possibilities of dissemination that this Scientific Letters section has with this expanded vi-

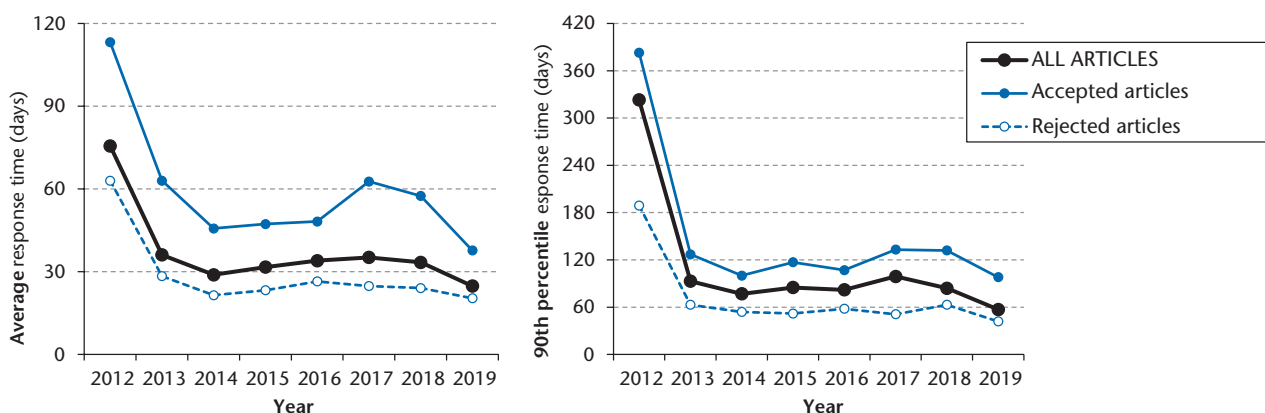


Figure 1. Final editorial response times (from registration of entry of the manuscript by the author to final communication of its acceptance or rejection).

Author affiliation: Emergency Department, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona, Spain.

Corresponding author: Òscar Miró. Emergency Department. Hospital Clínic. C/ Villarroel, 170. 08036 Barcelona, Spain.

E-mail: omiro@clinic.cat

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sion^{8,9}. In line with this purpose, the length of the manuscripts has been extended (from 800 to 1200 words) and the tables or figures they may contain (from 2 to 3). The natural evolution of this section will be to eventually replace that of Brief Originals in a short period of time.

Three other sections were launched a year ago, with a less educational purpose regarding the technical practice of the profession but more inclusive towards cultural and emotional aspects related to the clinical practice of EM. The new History Notes section has been well received and several manuscripts have been received, some of them of sufficient quality to be published. It is clear that this, unlike others, is not a fixed section in each issue, and its presence will clearly depend on the quality of the material received. On the other hand, the Change of Shift section has been very well received since the first published article¹⁰, which is reflected both in the periodic contribution of the authors who have sent us their manuscripts, and in the comments of readers who, openly or privately, have expressed their satisfaction with their reading. Finally, the wide-angle section, which was initially designed for extensive reporting that would provide a different perspective, from another perspective, on the practice of EM, has not had the desired acceptance and, in fact, no work has been received to be published in it. However, a series of manuscripts have been received, consisting of short stories written from an intimate perspective by authors who are either not emergency medicine professionals or do not structure their story from the professional's viewpoint in the development of their role. In a way, this is a complementary vision to that provided by Change of Shift. For this reason, it was a unanimous decision of the last meeting of the Editorial Committee to close the wide-angle section and to open a new one, called Con Otros Ojos (A different view), in which these stories I have referred to may have a place. The initial intention is that each issue of EMERGENCIAS will continue to include an article in Change of Shift, which in some cases will be replaced or accompanied for the publication of an article in A different view. In this issue you can enjoy the stories published in these sections.

In conclusion, I would like to comment that recently, and from these pages¹¹, SEMES has once again exposed the administration¹² to the situation in which it has abandoned the training of professionals working in the field of emergency medicine in Spain. I join in their

words, and pride in receiving congratulations when I talk to my European colleagues who praise the position of our Journal turns to blush when I have to acknowledge the (non-) training situation we are in and the inability of Spanish legislators to converge with Europe¹³. Another aspect that we will overcome during this new decade that we are now starting.

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