

## EDITORIAL

**EMERGENCIAS: a new publisher — without missing a step***EMERGENCIAS: una nueva editorial sin discontinuar el paso*

Òscar Miró

The year 2020 will be remembered for decades for the enormous imprint that the COVID-19 pandemic has left on the world<sup>1-3</sup>. While we are still immersed in it, our eyes and hopes are fixed on several vaccines developed in record time, the promising results of which are now beginning to be published<sup>4-6</sup>. If expectations are fulfilled, 2021 should mark the end of this first pandemic phase, characterized by several waves of acute infection of a world population vulnerable to this new virus and in which the response of the healthcare system has been the key to mitigating the impact of COVID-19. Among other core links in the healthcare system, the emergency medical systems (EMS) and hospital emergency departments (EDs) have played a key role. Their expertise in Spain has been reported in earlier editions of this Journal, and will remain for archiving and reading by future generations of emergency physicians<sup>7-12</sup>. The end of this first phase will, however, give way to subsequent phases, characterized by the late consequences directly or indirectly related to this pandemic. Thus, its medical, health, economic, sociological and psychological impact will last for decades and will be the subject of in-depth study in all fields.

However, looking closer at the more specific and narrower field of EMERGENCIAS' activity, 2021 brings other changes that I would like to highlight. Firstly, Sanidad Ediciones (SANED), which had been publishing EMERGENCIAS since 1995, ceased to do so by its own decision at the end of 2020. I can only express my gratitude to the entire SANED editorial team for the relationship maintained during these 25 years and for having facilitated this transition process in recent months. The new publisher of EMERGENCIAS is, from now on, the Spanish Society of Emergency Medicine (SEMES), which owns the title of the journal. As Editorial Director, EMERGENCIAS will continue to be led by Carmen Ibáñez, who has been linked to EMERGENCIAS since the Journal began to be published by SANED in 1995. It is therefore also to be welcomed that Carmen Ibáñez has taken the same step as the Journal, accompanying it in this transition and continuing to promote and participate in its growth and expansion.

This change, far from being a hindrance, is an opportunity for SEMES to develop other editorial projects

of its own. Among others, from the experience generated by years of work and improvement in EMERGENCIAS, SEMES is in a position to consider launching a second scientific journal. Many elements would support this decision at the present time. The research maturity of professionals working in the field of Emergency Medicine has increased significantly, a fact that generates more and better scientific work<sup>13-15</sup>. These papers sometimes do not find a space in the pages of EMERGENCIAS, where it is becoming increasingly competitive to publish<sup>16</sup>. At the same time, nurses and emergency health technicians find their possibilities of publication especially limited, as they are in competition with a group, the medical profession, with a greater research tradition. Furthermore, many of these professionals carry out their healthcare practice in the out-of-hospital setting, where, once again, the research tradition is not as well established as in the hospital setting. Finally, it is also noteworthy that neither in Spain nor in Latin America are there any other indexed journals published in Spanish whose main topic is Emergency Medicine. The Editorial Committee of EMERGENCIAS believes that this is an opportunity to be considered by SEMES, and we will offer our experience and advice if the time comes to consider taking this step. The aspects discussed in the previous lines can serve as a guideline to sense where and how this new publication should be positioned.

More specific changes also appear this year. The "Brief Originals" section has been definitively closed, and in its place the "Scientific Letters" section will continue to be strengthened. With a similar length, the scientific letters allow the same amount of information to be sufficiently conveyed. In this sense, in recent years the Journal has transformed its structure, leaving behind the sections "Images", "Clinical Notes" and now "Brief Originals". With this change, EMERGENCIAS culminates this process of internal restructuring of contents and aligns itself with the structure of other leading journals in which sections that provide innovative information of high scientific value are given priority.

And let's not forget. 2020 ended with another Minister of Health, in this case Salvador Illa<sup>17</sup>, failing to keep its promises to emergency physicians. At a time when Spain is advocating more than ever for a global

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and common European response to the ravages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is shocking (to say the least) that Spain continues to be one of the few European countries in which the specialty of Emergency Medicine does not exist, to the detriment of its professionals and, above all, its citizens<sup>18-20</sup>.

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