

# News in *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española*

Now that our readers have already received the first 2 issues in this new stage in the journal's life alongside Elsevier Doyma, the Editorial Committee would like to point out here the most significant innovations to be found by readers and authors in *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española*.

The January issue<sup>1</sup> already referred to the rationale behind the change of publisher and the aims to be achieved with this, so we are not going to stress that aspect any further. On the other hand, since the present Editorial Committee does not wish to establish any break with the editorial line followed by the previous committees under the leadership of Prof. Miquel Quer but rather its continuity, in an attempt to boost the positive aspects and deal with those aspects amenable to improvement, we are going to focus not on setting out our concept of what the journal should be and the goals we have set ourselves, but on more practical matters.

First of all, in addition to the stylistic changes in the cover and the articles (which will please some more than others, as there is no accounting for taste), we should like to highlight the existence of some new Indications to Authors adapted to the 2003 update in the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical and health-sciences journals (available at [www.doyma.es/requisitosuniformes](http://www.doyma.es/requisitosuniformes) 2003), as well as to maintain homogeneity with those used by the most important journals published by Elsevier Doyma.

In this sense, the new indications simplify the pre-existing rules and introduce the following changes:

- The submission of manuscripts will preferably be done electronically through the authors' area on the Elsevier Doyma web site ([www.doyma.es/espacioauthors](http://www.doyma.es/espacioauthors)). Alternatively, the previous system of delivery by mail will be maintained for some time, but once the electronic system is sufficiently well-known it will become the only channel possible for submitting manuscripts. This system allows the review process and the communications with authors to be speeded up considerably, thus shortening the time elapsing between sending in the article and seeing it published, if accepted.
- Manuscripts may be sent in English or Spanish. Since the journal is going to be published in both languages in its electronic format, the acceptance of manuscripts in English, apart from expanding the number of readers, will also increase the number of potential

authors interested in publishing in the journal. The paper edition will continue to be entirely in Spanish and the electronic one bilingual, as any articles submitted in English will be translated into Spanish.

- In the preparation of any works submitted, it should be remembered that authors must abide by internationally-accepted ethical recommendations on clinical investigation, and it is taken for granted that papers submitted have been drafted with these recommendations in mind. This is an important aspect for the journal's inclusion in international indices, so it is advisable for the texts to indicate that they have been prepared in line with these ethical standards.
- From now on, authors must complete and send to the journal a conflict of interest document in which they will specify relations of a financial nature with any public or private entity that may give rise to a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest shall be deemed to exist when the author(s) (or their institution) has economic or personal ties capable of introducing an inappropriate bias or influence on their actions. The potential for conflicts of interest exists regardless of whether or not the subjects in question consider the said ties to have had any influence on their scientific judgement. Financial ties (such as employment contracts, consultancy services, ownership of shares or securities, professional fees or expert opinions given for a consideration) are the most easily identifiable forms of conflicts of interest that in all likelihood will affect the credibility of the journal, the authors and science itself. For this reason, the Editorial Committee must adopt its decisions on the basis of the information available regarding conflicts of interest and financial interests, and such information must also be published so that readers are able to assess the work appropriately.
- The types of articles published by the journal have changed and from now on these will be classified in the following categories: original articles, short communications, case studies, images in otorhinolaryngology and head & neck surgery, and letters to the editor. Original articles should reflect basic or clinical research studies and will represent the main core of the journal. Short communications are intended for the publication of preliminary results from pertinent research or short series of patients. Case studies will be devoted to brief descriptions of exceptional clinical cases, new surgical techniques, an emerging diagnostic or therapeutic approach to a known pathology, etc.

Since priority will continue to be given to the publication of research articles rather than case studies, the acceptance criteria for the latter will be particularly restrictive. As both endoscopic and radiological images are of fundamental importance for diagnosis in our speciality, a new section for images in otorhinolaryngology and head & neck surgery is included to publish those cases in which imaging plays a major role, either as highly representative for diagnosis or else because of some unusual aspect. Finally, the letters to the editor section is basically intended for discussions on recent articles published in the journal, an aspect that we should like to encourage as critical debate is vital for the advance of science.

- Each type of article now has a limit on length (word count) and, except in the case of original articles, a limitation on the number of authors. Generally speaking, an "author" of a published paper is deemed to be someone who has made a significant intellectual contribution to the work. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommends the application of the following authorship criteria: *a)* significant contributions to the conception and design of the study or to the acquisition of data or their analysis and interpretation; *b)* the drafting of the manuscript or reviewing it critically with relevant intellectual contributions; and *c)* the final approval of the version to be published. Those persons designated as authors must comply with requirements a, b and c. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship. All persons identified as authors must qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed. Each author must have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the corresponding parts of its content.
- A new format is specified as mandatory for figures, which will be published in black and white unless colour is essential for their interpretation (for instance, immunohistochemistry imaging and some clinical images). All charts will be published in black and white, so authors are advised to submit them in this format.

These changes in the publication rules are associated with modifications in the system for reviewing articles, not in terms of the philosophy applied, as peer review will continue to be conducted anonymously by experts in the field, but rather in the medium as everything is now being done electronically. As in the case of manuscript submission, this has considerable advantages in terms of time through not having to depend on postal services, so a considerable reduction has been achieved in the time taken to review and decide on manuscripts. On this point, it is as always necessary to thank our reviewers for their efforts, a fundamental cog in the operation of any journal, as they devote a far from negligible amount of time to this task entirely altruistically.

Another aspect we wish to enhance, as already mentioned in the previous editorial, is the journal's practical nature from the standpoint of the major role it has to play in the on-going training of otorhinolaryngologists.

In order to boost this role, from the middle of this year a permanent section will be introduced with review articles covering the subjects of greatest interest in the different areas of this specialization, with each issue in the year having a review section corresponding to each of the SEORL's clinical committees. Part of this interest in enhancing the journal's training aspects can also be seen in the new section on images in otorhinolaryngology and head & neck surgery.

These will be the basic changes to be found in the journal at the outset of this new stage. Logically, these are not radical changes since, as we have already said, there is no break with the past but a smooth continuity with the goals set by the previous Editorial Committees, and these changes merely seek to make the journal more effective in its goal of being a quality publication, providing the greatest possible dissemination for the researches conducted by the authors choosing it and the best possible training for its readers.

*Editorial Committee of  
Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española*

## REFERENCES

1. Quer Agustí M, Rodrigo Tapia JP. Editorial: ACTA OTORRINOLARINGOLÓGICA ESPAÑOLA, un importante paso para una revista científica de calidad. *Acta Otorrinolaringol Esp.* 2007;58:1-3.