

First Year of the New Period in the Life of *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española*

A year ago, as a result of changes in the 2 key elements for the management of any publication, its Editorial Committee and its publisher, a new stage began in the life of *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española*. As we already mentioned in the editorial for February 2007,¹ the intention of the Editorial Committee as it embarked on this stage was not to break with the past but to evolve along the lines mapped out by the previous Committees led by Prof Miquel Quer, in an attempt to progress in those aspects we felt were ripe for improvement. In this effort, we have always been able to count on not only the professionalism that one might expect of the Doyma-Elsevier publishing house but also the greatest willingness to co-operate and assist, and we must thank all its staff for the work performed, particularly our editorial assistant, José Mena. In this editorial, we should like to remind our readers of the changes wrought.

First of all, the journal's structure has been altered as the March issue included the classification of articles according to the organization stipulated in the new instructions to authors adapted to the ICJME's uniform standards and published back in the first issue produced by Doyma-Elsevier. In this sense we have continued to give preference to Original Articles in the journal's contents over other material, but other types of texts have gradually been introduced. Coinciding with the new classification of articles published in the journal, Dr Carmelo Morales Angulo was appointed as the head of the Review Articles section and Dr César Orús Dotú took charge of Case Studies and ENT Imaging. Just as we had planned, the Review Articles section has become a regular feature since the May issue, made possible by the selfless collaboration of the authors who have volunteered to prepare these articles. We also wish to encourage our readers to send in papers for the new sections created, such as Brief Communications and ENT Imaging, which might make a more suitable container for some of the works submitted for the sections on Original Articles and Case Studies, respectively.

From the point of view of editorial management, this is now entirely done over the Internet, from the reception of originals and communications with the authors to the entire process of peer review of the submissions. This has allowed us to shorten notably the time taken to notify authors of the decision on the works received to an average of 50 days over the last year. Of course, such speed would not be possible without the prompt response by our reviewers, whose efforts in this field deserve special recognition.

An aspect taking on special relevance in recent years is the question of ethics in scientific publications. This interest in maintaining high ethical standards has been reflected in the

new publication guidelines that refer explicitly to the ethical aspects of scientific papers and the need for authors to indicate any possible conflict of interest that might arise, and this has been further strengthened by the journal's adherence to the ethical standards for the publication of scientific articles as established by the publishers of the most prestigious journals in the field of otorhinolaryngology.²

As for the journal's dissemination, in order to achieve the largest possible audience for the articles published in it and the greatest renown for the journal itself, efforts have been made to increase its accessibility in 2 ways: by improving and shortening the time taken to produce the translation into English (the English version is currently available 3 months after the corresponding Spanish issue) and by including a link with direct access to the complete articles on MedLine. This latter measure has been particularly effective, as shown by the increased traffic visiting the journal's web site since this link was added. With respect to our web page, it has been adapted to the shared model used by all the titles in the Doyma-Elsevier stable. Since it is evident that the future, not to say the present, of scientific journals revolves around their dissemination over the Internet, it is essential to have an attractive and useful web site, so our greatest efforts from now on will strive to achieve this.

We should also like to remind you that, since the electronic edition of the journal is bilingual, it is also possible to submit texts in English.

In short, we have advanced in the direction we felt that *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española* should follow in order consolidate its position as the reference journal for otorhinolaryngology and associated sciences in Spanish. As we have indicated, this is now possible thanks to the efforts of all those who contribute to the preparation of the journal: the publishers, the members of the editorial committees, reviewers and, in particular, the authors who have chosen this title in which to publish their works. To all of them we should like to express once more our gratitude for their support, while again encouraging them to continue contributing to the journal's growth.

Juan Pablo Rodrigo Tapia

Editor of *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española*

REFERENCES

1. Comité de Redacción. Novedades en *Acta Otorrinolaringológica Española*. *Acta Otorrinolaringol Esp.* 2007;58:37-8.
2. Rodrigo Tapia JP. Estándares éticos para la publicación de artículos científicos. *Acta Otorrinolaringol Esp.* 2007;58:335.