

Editorial

Rationale for launching a new journal

In the last two decades there has been a considerable increase in the Brazilian scientific production in many areas of knowledge, including the two closely related fields that constitute the core of *Dementia & Neuropsychologia*, a new scientific periodical.

It is important to present the other main reasons for launching this new journal in Brazil:

1. There is no journal specifically dedicated to these areas in the country, especially for research on dementia;
2. Versions to Brazilian-Portuguese or adaptations of internationally utilized tests, scales or questionnaires and studies focusing on peculiarities of the language problems of Portuguese-speaking patients may prove very difficult to publish in an international journal or in the national general journals of neurology, psychology or psychiatry;
3. When papers are not published in high level international journals, but in less well known international indexed journals, the paper often ends up virtually unknown by the national community;
4. Maybe these and other reasons have contributed to the low number of Brazilian studies that progress from poster form to full papers;
5. Last but not least, selected reviewers may improve the quality of the manuscripts, providing suggestions on how to adapt the scientific writing, statistical analyses and proper citation of the literature.

Of course, it will be difficult for a not yet indexed journal to attract good manuscripts. As *Dementia & Neuropsychologia* was approved as the official journal of the Cognitive Neurology and Ageing Department of the Brazilian Academy of Neurology and is receiving support from the most important groups related to the dementia and neuropsychological fields in Brazil, with an editorial board including members from most regions of Brazil, Latin America and abroad, it probably will receive manu-

scripts within the first year. In the near future, indexation may be achieved if we strictly follow a few rules. The journal has received support from Professor Antonio Spina-França Neto, editor-in-chief of *Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria*, the most prestigious neurological journal in Brazil, and also from Abel Laerte Parker and other expert librarians of the Pan-American Health Organization and from the SCIELO (Scientific Library On-Line), a very successful Brazilian initiative designed for the on-line diffusion of Brazilian and Latin American scientific papers. If their guidance is followed, *Dementia & Neuropsychologia* will be on-line even before the end of its first year. Then, the first published papers will be retrospectively included in the on-line library and will be freely available to both national and international communities. When this landmark is accomplished, the journal will be attractive for the speed of on-line publication. The next challenge will be international indexation (PubMed, ISIS).

Papers will be published in English, but versions of tests, scales or special papers with features peculiar to Brazilian or Latin American spheres may be published in Portuguese or Spanish.

Dementia & Neuropsychologia is published quarterly and follows the *Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals*. The first issues are including reviews, original reports, short communications and case reports. In future issues, other sections will be included.

In this first issue it is necessary to also thank the Brazilian scientific community, the international members of the editorial board, and the advertisers for making possible to give this first step in a long, but hopefully very significant journey.

Ricardo Nitrini
Editor-in-Chief