

# Change the Qualis criteria!

The Brazilian Medical Association (AMB) concerned about the future of scientific publications, after the release of the new QUALIS of CAPES, has been organizing since August 2009 a series of meetings at its headquarters in Sao Paulo, in partnership with the Brazilian Association of Scientific Editors - ABEC Brazil. The meetings resulted in an editorial called *Classification of journals in the system QUALIS of CAPES - the change in criteria is URGENT!* This editorial was signed by 62 editors of scientific journals and published in full in all of these journals and also in countless others mainly in the health science area, demonstrating that Brazil's periodicals are more and more committed to discussing the problems they share in common.<sup>1</sup>

The scientific community remains concerned about the outlook, the direction and future of Brazilian journals<sup>2,3</sup>. Thus, in the March 18 meeting, the editors present at the meeting were able to assess the effects of the first Editorial that was the basis for discussions at scientific meetings and events across the country. The latter meeting was attended by Dr. Lilian Caló, Coordinator of Science Communication and Evaluation of SciELO, which presented a comparative study of Brazilian journals in the database classified by two criteria: the first criterion according to the impact factor ISI / JCR, which uses only the journals indexed by Thomson Reuters, and the second was an index composed by simple addition of impact factors of ISI / JCR and SciELO. The impact factor SciELO that also considers citations from all of its basis journals, significantly modifies the number of citations obtained and, consequently, raises the impact factor of journals in Brazil. This fact was most evident with the demonstration presented by Dr. Caló of the percentage gain achieved by the journals with the adoption of the composite index. Clearly, associating other indexes, creating equivalence or several alternatives may favor the qualification of national magazines, improving their

visibility and enhancing the international indexation. It should also be considered that Brazilian researchers are choosing to publish their works in foreign journals rather than in domestic journals. This choice improves the classification of the Graduate Departments to which they belong, earning them a higher impact factor and increasing the H index, and all this entirely and exclusively on account of the new revised criteria adopted by CAPES. The search for greater visibility and quality of Brazilian scientific production should not be assessed on the basis of articles alone, but rather by focusing on higher qualification of our journals in order to be internationally recognized.

Considering that the criteria have already been set for CAPES' current triennial assessment, the assembled editors decided to develop a second editorial containing a list of suggestions to be forwarded to the coordination of CAPES for the next assessment. The list of suggestions which complement the first editorial is as follows:

- *Revision of criteria used by CAPES to classify the periodicals, suggesting the adoption of the composite impact factor calculated by summing up all of the impact factors of ISI / JCR and SciELO;*

- *Placement of ABEC Brasil (Brazilian Association of Science Editors) in the Scientific Technical Council of CAPES, so that the editors can be heard in the process;*

- *Request of the "Editor's Scholarship" with CNPq in order to aid scientific editing for publishers of Brazilian journals that receive support from the latter funding agency. This resource aims to improve the quality of journals for better dedication of their editors to editorial functions;*

Moreover, the editors assembled decided to get support from the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, of FINEP and Deputy Eleuses Vieira de Paiva for his demands and suggestions. In a second step the editors

will request a detailed breakdown from CNPq of the results and criteria adopted for allocation of resources of the Publishing Support Grants (*Editais para Auxílio à Editoração*). With this information the editors plan to build a database with information on annual budgets of Brazilian magazines that will be useful for benchmarking and mutual cooperation. The disclosure of both editorials and promoting continuous discussion remains our goal in order to get the recognition that national journals need and deserve.

#### REFERENCES

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3. Rocha-e-Silva, M. O novo Qualis, ou a tragédia anunciada. Clinics. 2009;64(1):1-4.

#### Signing this editorial:

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Benedito Barraviera  
Bogdana Victoria Kadunc  
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Carlos Brites  
Dejair Caitano do Nascimento  
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Eduardo de Paula Vieira  
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Izelda Maria Carvalho Costa  
João Ferreira de Mello Júnior  
Joel Faintuch  
José Antônio Baddini Martinez  
José Antônio Livramento  
José Eduardo Ferreira Manso

Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial  
Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial  
Revista Brasileira de Medicina do Esporte  
Revista Femina  
Journal of Venomous Animals and Toxins including Tropical Diseases  
Surgical & Cosmetic Dermatology da Soc. Brasileira de Dermatologia  
Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira  
Brazilian Journal of Infectious Diseases  
Hansenologia Internationalis  
Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular  
Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Plástica  
Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira  
Revista Radiologia Brasileira  
Revista Brasileira de Coloproctologia  
Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Clínica Médica  
Revista Brasileira de Terapia Intensiva  
Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cabeça e Pescoço  
Jornal Brasileiro de Nefrologia  
Revista Brasileira de Ortopedia  
Medicina Família e Comunidade  
Revista de Administração em Saúde  
Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia  
Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology  
Revista Brasileira de Nutrição Clínica  
Jornal Brasileiro de Pneumologia  
Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria  
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José Eulálio Cabral Filho	Revista Brasileira de Saúde Materno Infantil
José Heverardo da Costa Montal	Revista da Associação Brasileira de Medicina de Tráfego
José Luiz Gomes do Amaral	Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira
José Luiz Martins	Archives of Pediatric Surgery
Jurandyr Moreira de Andrade	Revista Brasileira de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia
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Luís dos Ramos Machado	Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria
Luiz Augusto Casulari	Brasilia Médica
Luiz Eugenio Garcez Leme	Revista Geriatria e Gerontologia
Luiz Felipe P. Moreira	Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia
Luiz Henrique Gebrim	Revista Brasileira de Mastologia
Marcelo Madeira	Revista Brasileira de Mastologia
Marcelo Riberto	Revista Acta Fisiátrica
Marcus Bastos	Jornal Brasileiro de Nefrologia
Mário Cícero Falcão	Revista Brasileira de Nutrição Clínica
Mario J. da Conceição	Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia
Mauricio Rocha e Silva	Revista Clinics
Milton Artur Ruiz	Revista Brasileira de Hematologia e Hemoterapia
Milton K. Shibata	Arquivos Brasileiros de Neurocirurgia
Mittermayer Barreto Santiago	Revista Brasileira de Reumatologia
Nelson Adami Andreollo	Arquivos Brasileiros de Cirurgia Digestiva
Nivaldo Alonso	Brazilian Journal of Craniomaxilofacial Surgery
Oswaldo Malafaia	Arquivos Brasileiros de Cirurgia Digestiva
Paulo Manuel Pêgo Fernandes	São Paulo Medical Journal
Regina Helena Garcia Martins	Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology
Renato Soibelman Procionoy	Jornal de Pediatria
Ricardo César Pinto Antunes	Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Cancerologia
Ricardo Fuller	Revista Brasileira de Reumatologia
Ricardo Guilherme Viebig	Arquivos de Gastroenterologia
Ricardo Nitrini	Dementia & Neuropsychologia
Rogério Dedivitis	Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cabeça e Pescoço
Ronaldo Damião	Urologia Contemporânea
Rosângela Monteiro	Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular
Sergio Lianza	Revista Medicina de Reabilitação
Sigmar de Mello Rode	Brazilian Oral Research
Tarcisio E. P. Barros Filho	Acta Ortopédica Brasileira
Wallace Chamon	Arquivos Brasileiros de Oftalmologia
Winston Bonetti Yoshida	Jornal Vascular Brasileiro
Zuher Handar	Revista Brasileira de Medicina do Trabalho