



RBO
REVISTA BRASILEIRA DE ORTOPEDIA

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Editorial

The RBO has a new publisher: a further step towards internationalization

For many years, the RBO was edited by the publishers Redprint, directed by Mr. Katayama, an independent editor who brought together five or six medical journals with the common factor of the same group of sponsors, and which were published and distributed with the same periodicity. This was printing work that resembled, for example, production of a wedding invitation: the interested parties supplied data, chose the format of the invitation and the printing company printed the number of invitations that were requested. The editing work was very superficial.

This form of producing the RBO was more than enough for many years, since the cost to the SBOT was zero and the members received their journal at home at a very reasonable periodicity. We supplied the material to be published, and the company found sponsorship with our material and published the RBO without cost to the SBOT. This is not criticism of this period, and there is no doubt that many of us learned much by reading studies selected by our eminent former editors and published by Mr. Katayama.

However, the world of medical publishing underwent great evolution over that period. Journals became indexed through professional quality analysis systems; indexation became a required criterion in university life; sponsors started to demand higher quality from studies and publishers; and Mr. Katayama became elderly, which led the RBO to seek other directions. These problems started to become apparent at the end of Professor Giesta's administration as Editor-in-chief and, at the beginning of our administration, we contracted a publishing company, Atha Comunicação e Editora, directed by Mr. Arthur. With Atha and with Mr. Arthur, we established a new editorial standard that met the requirements of the majority of the indexers, but we started to need greater professionalism for raising resources.

We made important editorial advances, reflected in greater numbers of studies sent for publication, with higher quality. The administration sector of the SBOT became responsible for seeking the sponsorship that was necessary for paying the costs of publishing and distributing the RBO.

Over the last few years, the requirements within the field of journal editing have become increasingly specific, and

publishing medical periodicals have become a matter of some complexity. In addition to the needs for revision of the form and content, higher quality for images and greater rigor in assessing studies, attainment of internationalization has been sought. Through internationalization, studies in journals are placed in universal search systems and journals are qualified in accordance with standards established worldwide; and an impact factor is assigned according to the numbers of citations of the journal within the worldwide editorial system. This is the highest level that any journal can attain at present. To be consulted and cited internationally is a desirable objective for the most important journals within the field of medicine, so that they can be supplied with material by the best authors, who wish to see their studies displayed to the scientific world.

The present moment is good for the RBO. We have a large reserve of studies already selected; we maintain a study rejection rate of around 25 to 30%; we have a constant flow of study submissions; we are read, given that we are cited; and the publishers Atha provided us with an excellent publication service. Thus, we are a good national journal, but we have not yet attained an international level. A decision to continue at this level and refine it was always borne in mind, but on the other hand, we are a Society with more than 10,000 members, with many links with international societies and an important leading position in Latin America. Hence, a proposal to set out to reach the next step, internationalization, was assessed by the boards of directors with whom I work, and all of them were unanimous in deciding to seek internationalization.

President Romeu accepted and stimulated the initial contacts with international publishers; President Santilli came to the point of negotiating a contract with an important international publisher; and President Osvandré not only negotiated but also established solid contacts with major publishers. However, it became President Geraldo's task to enter into the contract with Elsevier, one of the biggest publishers in the world, for us to start this new era.

This is the first edition of this new era of the RBO. Few modifications will be noted, since our investment is for the medium to long term.

We will be modifying some aspects of the study selection process, by creating another two analysis stages: one in the field of form and structure (librarian support) and the other in the field of content quality (medical editors). For this, we will have to select assistant editors for fields of knowledge so that, after my first evaluation as Editor-in-chief, the sector editors can judge the appropriateness and originality of the study presented. We are going to head towards a rejection rate of close to 50%. In parallel with this procedure, we will have a support sector for authors, provided by the publisher and by our associate editors, so that rejections are transformed into teaching material for training good authors in accordance with the international standards for scientific production.

Our editors will have support from Elsevier's databases for judging studies and guiding authors, through suggesting previous studies that will be made available online.

We will be continuing the work of the former Editors-in-chief Marcio Ibrain de Carvalho, Donato Dangelo and Carlos Giesta, who had editorial support from Mr. Katayama, and our work, which had editorial support from Mr. Arthur, in seeking to lead the RBO to an international standard compatible with the other activities of the SBOT, like our examination for obtaining the title of specialist, our continuing education program and our congresses, which have already attained this standard of excellence.

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