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## *BJR MEDLINE indexation*

This is an official statement that our *Brazilian Journal of Rheumatology* (BJR) was indexed in the MEDLINE database, which represents a milestone for our specialty in Brazil and will provide a much broader international visibility.

From now on, authors, reviewers, researchers, and readers will be pleased to seek the RBR articles through MEDLINE. It was 50 years of waiting and four previous failed attempts.

The journal evolution was conquered by the dedication and expertise of its many and bright editors throughout the history of BJR, with the Brazilian Society of Rheumatology (SBR from Portuguese) support. Thus, the journal got indexed in SciELO, Scopus, Index Copernicus, and LILACS.

But the ultimate prize still seemed a distant place. The international scenery did not look very promising. In Latin and Central Americas, only Mexico has a rheumatology journal recently indexed. Even so, it is a bi-national production, together with Spain.

But the tradition and quality of BJR would be the endorsement for a new attempt at indexing. To achieve this goal we have, at the end of 2008, the full support of the SBR President, Dr Ieda Laurindo, as well as all members of our society present at the strategy meeting at the beginning of Ieda's mandate. In this event, we decided to prioritize all the measures necessary for the election. The first was the hiring of Elsevier, for its recognized expertise on the issue of hundreds of international scientific journals.

The first issue of 2009 was already bilingual and edited with a complete visual reformulation, more current. We tried to give priority to publishing original articles, which had a 50% increase. It was also necessary to streamline the content on other aspects, suspending sections of the journal that, although interesting, would not contribute to the process of approval from MEDLINE. The peer review system is being performed on the entire production of the magazine.

An online submission system was created and established a routine of editorial procedures, aiming at improving quality and reducing delays on the issues. BJR also acquired a bilingual site, which began to attract more foreign authors. The journal should definitely expand its geographical boundaries, which was obtained by enlarging the number of international reviewers, and we invite foreigners to write articles for the journal. Still focusing on the international appreciation, BJR was displayed at meetings of ACR and EULAR. The journal was also submitted to the editors of *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, and *Autoimmunity Reviews Journal of Clinical Rheumatology* who drafted letters of recommendation, a requirement of the National Medical Library (NML), an agency responsible for evaluating journals that aim indexing in the MEDLINE.

To demonstrate that the BJR had a scope that excels on the international scene, the publication of clinical conditions typical of Brazil were encouraged. The culmination of this attitude was editing an entire issue only with articles about the rheumatic impact of infectious diseases of our environment (exposed in the ACR Congress).

The rules of BJR were also reviewed, especially in regard to the ethical demands of NML and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. The editorial process had to be meticulously described in the extensive documentation required and comply rigorously with the blind evaluation by reviewers.

With the homework done, in May 2010, BJR was submitted to the NML. And in November of that year, the long-awaited news arrived. Finally, the logistical and financial investment and all the effort spent were worthwhile.

This upgrade opens new perspectives. The number of articles that will arrive, including international ones, should increase. And certainly the journal will also attract better-quality manuscripts, previously intended to the indexed journals. Our Qualis, which measures the scientific production

of Brazilian researchers, went from B4 to B3 and, as soon as the first impact index gets out, whatever it may be, our Qualis will go to B2.

For the future, BJR should aim at the progressive improvement of quality and indexation in the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), which will set up a new editorial battle. Maintaining the quality of the journal to remain indexed in this database requires much effort and dedication. We are confident that everyone will cooperate to make this happen, particularly, the editors who are now replacing us with the full support of the SBR president.

Finally, we thank the Editorial Board and ad hoc reviewers who were greatly requested and responded promptly to our

demands. Likewise, we thank our Secretary Rogério for his tireless work, always giving us the logistic support facilitating our actions.

We are completely confident that the Brazilian Rheumatology, organized, productive, and scientifically strong as it is, will fill the BJR with a production of increasingly higher quality.

*Mittermayer B. Santiago*

*Ricardo Fuller*

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Brazilian Journal of Rheumatology Editors (2008-2010)