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SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA
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Editorial

The Impact Factor

Since its creation, the *Brazilian Journal of Rheumatology* (BJR) has overcome several challenges due to the persistence, effort and hard work of the journal's editors, reviewers and contributors, aiming to achieve the currently high scientific standards and consequent national and international prestige.

The first major national recognition occurred in June 2004, with its inclusion in the collection of the Scientific Electronic Library Online - Brazil (SciELO-Brazil), which included BJR into an electronic database that contains a much selected collection of Brazilian scientific journals.

When the journal was indexed in MEDLINE in 2010, BJR was included in a bibliographic database of the U.S. National Library of Medicine, which comprises over 19 million references to articles in biomedical sciences from around the world, giving it international recognition.

Its indexation in the Web of Science, Thomson Reuters' database, in July 2012, was important for BJR to have its Impact Factor (IF) measured by the *Journal of Citation Reports*® (JCR), also by Thomson Reuters. And this IF, which was much anticipated, has been attributed to BJR, being 0.864, establishing its place as the 12th national scientific health journal among indexed Brazilian publications.

But what does that mean? What is the importance of the IF? The IF is a measure created by Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), aiming to reflect the mean number of citations of scientific articles published in certain journals indexed by ISI. Since 1972, IFs have been calculated annually and the results are published in the JCR.

It is a very useful tool for ranking journals from the same area, by giving more importance to journals with a higher IF, to the detriment of those that have a lower IF. Thus, an article published in a journal with a higher IF will theoretically have greater impact, prestige and visibility. And for this reason, we observe the enormous effort by the authors to publish their results in journals of high IF.

This shall be our goal from now on, to increase the IF of BJR. It won't be easy, but we can count on the great collaboration and effort of national and international authors, editors and reviewers to achieve such goal.

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Editors-in-chief

Brazilian Journal of Rheumatology

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