
CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

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The Revista HCPA has been prepared for a new challenge in the next years: its internationalization. This broad term, in the context of scientific journals, actually means that the periodic ultimately sought to be a vehicle for publishing scientific content on all fields of medical sciences including, basic, pharmacological and clinical research, from and to a worldwide readers and researchers community.

In order to reach this goal, many challenges must be overcome and a few modifications are strictly necessary. One of the first challenges is to turn Revista HCPA more visible and attractive to a broader group of researchers potentially interested in publishing their original investigations in an open access scientific periodic. This will be partially achieved, at the beginning, by indexing the journal in renowned international databases. Such databases require, among other requests, that the journal be composed of articles written not only by local collaborators but also by external, particularly foreign, ones. Editorial board, reviewers and contributors from other institutions are essential to undress the periodic of its local character and join to a more selected group of journals that serve to a wider range of readers and researchers.

All these changes are ongoing and we believe that the potential is great. Since December 2007, in its current format, the online Revista HCPA has accounted more than 60,000 accesses; more than 40,000 of these from 2010 to 2013. As could be expected, more than 90% of the accesses are originated from Brazil (approximately two thirds from Rio Grande do Sul); however, hundreds of views from other countries were also registered. Notably, most from the U.S., followed by Portugal and Canada. In fact, records of countries from the five continents have occurred during this period.

Notwithstanding, this just shows up the potential of Revista HCPA. In fact, much more than accesses is necessary to fulfill the “basic criteria” for internationalization of a scientific journal. We need that researchers publish their original investigations in the journal and that the articles be read and cited by other investigators.

We believe that, with the engagement of many collaborators of Faculdade de Medicina da UFRGS and Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre, along with the participation of highly motivated external collaborators, it will be an achievable goal.

Revista HCPA. 2013;33(3/4):197

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