



# ACTAS

## Derma-Sifiliográficas

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### EDITORIAL

## **Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas in 2011: Building on the Past, on the Road to our Future**

### **Actas 2011: desde nuestra historia, caminando hacia el futuro**

"I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more"

*Jonas Edward Salk*

"It is not enough to know where the treasure lies; you need to work to dig it out"

*Francisco de Quevedo*

Dear readers,

In June of last year, the new board of directors of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV), chaired by Dr José Carlos Moreno, charged us with the task of editing *Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas* for the next 4 years. As the previous editorial team passes the baton to us, we also take responsibility to continue the dedicated, hard work of all our predecessors, even as we build on the fruits of their labors. From the last editor, Dr Dauden, and his team, we receive a journal whose value is recognized by MEDLINE indexing and whose content has been approved for continuing professional development after undergoing a profound transformation in order to accommodate the educational, informational, and research potential of Spanish dermatology and serve as testimony of the quality of our work to the scientific world at large. The translation into English of the journal's entire content, which is made available open access through links from PubMed, reflects the AEDV's commitment to spare no effort to attract as large as possible a readership beyond Spain's borders, accounting for the growing impact of *Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas*.

### **The Team**

For the road ahead, we are very fortunate to count on an excellent team: the authors and reviewers of *Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas* and the members of the AEDV who

have contributed to our journal and will continue to help improve it. Our labors build on the quality of their work, a vital prerequisite for achieving our objectives. Dr Diego de Argila, who was responsible for managing the professional development accreditation process for the previous editorial board, now becomes the coordinator of our program for continuing medical education. Dr Gloria Aparicio, Dr Javier Labandeira, and Dr Javier Pedraz will continue to manage the section Cases for Diagnosis to the same enviably high standards. The History and Humanities section will continue to benefit from the experience and prestige of Drs Luis Conde Salazar and Rosa Díaz. The responsibility of coordinating this magnificent team will be shared by the editorial board: Drs Isabel Belinchón and Lara Ferrándiz as deputy editors under the direction of Dr Yolanda Gilaberte and Dr José Manuel Carrascosa, the editor-in-chief.

### **Our Starting Point**

In conjunction with the first issue of the year, we wish to share with the readers of this journal the situation we start from and show how the main bibliometric indicators have changed over time. We intend to make this information public periodically in the coming years.

Between November 2009 and November 2010, the webpage of *Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas* received 168 316 visits during which a total of 383 316 pages were viewed. This figure is significant and also represents a 12% increase over statistics for the same period in the previous year (November 2008-2009). The highest percentage of article viewings were from Latin America (40%), followed by viewings from Spain (38%), the rest of Europe (6%), the United States (4%), and the rest of the world (10%).

In this period 335 manuscripts (up 9.8%) were received and 60.9% were accepted for publication (39.1% rejection

rate, up 3%).<sup>1</sup> The average time between manuscript submission and the initial editorial decision was 53.4 days (down 13%), and 520 reviewers (up 42%) were invited to take part in the assessment process; 439 of them completed the assignment.<sup>1</sup> Of these reviews, 312 were accomplished before the end of the proposed review period.

Without entering into an exhaustive analysis, it is worth highlighting the growing circulation of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* beyond the confines of the paper edition. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that more articles are viewed in America than in all of Europe, Spain included. This circumstance makes it incumbent on us to provide a journal that is more rigorous in terms of content and more sensitive to the needs and concerns of such readers. A critical interpretation can also be made: the potential for growth in the non-Spanish speaking readership, given the AEDV's efforts to provide translations into English and make them available open access through PubMed, is much greater than we see realized at present. At this point, only the intrinsic quality of the articles published will lead to the full realization of our potential.

### Appreciation for Your Work

All our efforts are devoid of meaning if the readers of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* are not interested in what we publish. From here we pledge to maintain and enhance the interest of the articles we accept. Yet all would be lost without the disinterested contributions of the authors of original and commissioned articles. The growing involvement of Spanish and ever more numerous foreign dermatologists in this journal provides a source of weightier, better quality, and better designed studies. We would like to extend our gratitude to them and our regrets to those who submitted manuscripts that went unpublished. Anyone who writes is aware of what the preparation process entails in terms of time and dedication and of the considerable frustration felt when rejection is the end result. The increasing number of articles that reach the editorial office of this journal must contend with the limited space available. Consequently, only 6 of every 10 papers received are eventually accepted for publication and in most cases only after they have undergone considerable revision at the reviewers' behest. Furthermore, requirements for publication are likely to become more rigorous in the near future. This project is a benchmark for Spanish dermatology and as such leaves us no option other than to carry on with a selection process which will result in a journal of enhanced quality and greater scope.

We cannot fail to mention the referees, whose selfless efforts ensure rigorous publications. Quality peer review, which is increasingly becoming the norm, requires considerable dedication from reviewers. In addition to the involvement of our deputy editors on the board, who are frequently called upon to participate, credit must also go to external reviewers. The table shows a list of all the professionals who, though not members of the editorial

**Table 1** Peer Reviewers Who are Not Members of the Editorial Board but Who Participated in the Critical Appraisal of Manuscripts Submitted to *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* in 2010

Agustín	Alomar Muntañola
Alberto	Miranda Romero
Amparo	Pérez Ferriols
Aram	Boada García
Arantxa	López-Pestaña
Carla	Ferrandiz-Pulido
Carlos	Feal Cortizas
Carlos	Serra Guillén
Celia	Requena Caballero
Cristina	Paradelo
Didac	Barco
Elia	Roo Rodríguez
Enric	Piqué Duran
esther	Serra-Baldrich
Felipe	Heras Mendaza
Fernando	Gallardo Hernández
Francisco	Jiménez Acosta
Gregorio	Carretero Hernández
J.J.	Sánchez Ruano
Janeth	Almaguer Chávez
Jesus	Vera
Jesús Manuel	Borbujo Martínez
Jordi	Graells
Jordi	Rex Caballe
Jorge	Romani
Jorge	Ocampo Candiani
Jose	Bañuls
José Luis	López Estebaranz
José Manuel	Ramos
Juan Francisco	Silvestre Salvador
L.A.	Díaz
Leticia	Calzado
M. Pilar	García Muret
Magdalena	De Troya Martín
Manuel	Pereiro Ferreiros
María	Jones Caballero
María	Barnadas
Maria José	Fuente González
María Teresa	Gutiérrez Salmerón
Marta	Ferran Farrés
Mercè	Alsina Gibert
Minia	Campos Domínguez
Miquel	Just Sarobé
Pedro	Zaballos Diego
Ricardo	Suárez Fernández
Ricardo	Fernández de Misa Cabrera
Rosa	Izu Belloso
Rosa Maria	Guinovart
Rubén	del Río
Sabela	Paradela de la Morena
Silvestre	Martínez García
Teresa	Estrach Panella

<sup>1</sup> Percent change in each variable between 2009 and 2010.

board, have reviewed manuscripts. We would also like to highlight the work of the editorial team at Elsevier Doyma, especially that of our editorial assistant Marisa del Barrio, and the invaluable collaboration of the pharmaceutical industry in these particularly trying times.

From our position on the editorial board, we extend our gratitude to them all.

## Proposals for the Future

The first mission of the new editorial board will be to consolidate and optimize the proposals outlined in recent years. We have begun working directly through the Elsevier Editorial System portal, a tool that will go hand in hand with our own efforts to allow for a more thorough and meticulous management of the editorial process, resulting in more streamlined procedures and fewer delays. Excellence requires both the implication of the Spanish-language authors in support of our journal and rigorous peer review. We shall therefore recruit more reviewers, seeking specialists whose contribution to the selection process will enrich the journal and ensure that authors receive fair appraisals. The continuing medical education program, which already offers a large number of credits, will be planned so as to meet the full scope and depth of readers' needs. Attempts will also be made to take advantage of the

potential of new technologies, particularly the webpage of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*, in order to optimize journal visibility and reach more readers.

As readers of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* are aware, the former editorial board requested that the journal be included in the *Science Citation Index*, and the evaluation of our application is still pending. Although we have sufficient reason to feel hopeful, we must be prepared for a long and not necessarily trouble-free road ahead. Irrespective of the outcome, we must continue to strive to maintain the exceptional effort we have been making, so that it becomes routine, supporting and increasing the journal's visibility among the highest-ranked publications in dermatology.

The future is always uncertain. In the coming years we may be forced to face challenges yet unknown: changes in the world of science and information technologies, and a foreseeable revolution in the publishing world. Yet we start out full of hope and confidence, our present forged by our past, on the road to our future.

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