

Indexing on MEDLINE

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Grupo Editorial

With the experience of more than 20 years working on the 2 journals that preceded *Reumatología Clínica* (*Revista Española de Reumatología* and *Revista Mexicana de Reumatología*), this journal has been published regularly for the past 2 years and a half in a version printed in Spanish.

Starting in 2007 we also have a version that is printed in Portuguese, a complete version in English published online and a free-access electronic version on a web page (www.reumatologiaclinica.org) exclusively for this journal where full text articles can be consulted and downloaded. Of the version which is printed in Spanish, 3100 copies are distributed and, during 2006 the web page received 245 013 visitors that consulted 988 515 pages.

Fifty-two per cent of the visitors are from Latin America, 43% from Spain, and 5% from Europe and the United States.

Ninety-five per cent of the journal content are unsolicited articles; the editorial process includes peer-review and follows the recommendations of the ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) and CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) and the authors must disclose their conflicts of interest and sources of financing.

The percentage of accepted articles is 59%. The journal is printed on acid-free paper and is indexed on the EMBASE (Excerpta Medica Database) index, SCOPUS, The Spanish Medical Index, ARTEMISA (Health Related Scientific Articles Edited in Mexico), and CENIDS (Center for Information on Decisions in Public Health).

This past June, *Reumatología Clínica* was submitted for evaluation by the LSTCR (Literature Selection Technical Review Committee), which belongs to the National Library of Science National Institutes of Health of the United States, for its inclusion in MEDLINE.

This committee meets 3 times a year and each time it evaluates approximately 140 publications for indexing; in the past meeting, the number of accepted journals was 29, among which, unfortunately, we were not included. In the evaluation, we obtained a total score of 3 (with 0 being the lowest possible score and 5 the highest). Journals with a score higher than 3.75 are accepted for indexing in MEDLINE. This result, although not

completely unexpected because it is the first time we ask to be indexed and the merged journal is barely 2 years old, obliges us, the editors, the members of the committees, and the Spanish-speaking rheumatologists, to redouble our efforts in all of the functioning areas of the journal in order to improve it and make it ever more solid.

Entry into MEDLINE will mean belonging to the most consulted medical index and, therefore, enormously increasing the capacity for diffusion of the works published in our journal. It also means that the journal will undergo an improvement in quality, which will be reflected upon the authors of the papers. In that manner, studies published in journals indexed by MEDLINE are the only ones taken into account when evaluating the curriculum vitae, and for continuous medical education, both of them factors of the utmost importance for all of us. Finally and because of all of that, being a part of MEDLINE means the definite consolidation of the journal, increasing significantly the number and quality of the original material received and avoiding the problems which have kept for such a long time the publications of our societies (SER and CMR) on the brink of disappearing.

The editors, the directors boards of the SER and CMR, and the personnel of Elsevier-Spain have taken several decisions and plotted several strategies to keep working in a day-today manner and in order to constantly improve the journal in a sustained way; however, this is probably not enough.

Undoubtedly it will not be easy, but we are parting from a good position. The evaluation done by MEDLINE, though insufficient for approval, leaves us in a good position to attempt it again. Additionally we have been able to identify the points which, in the opinion of the MEDLINE evaluators, must be worked upon in order to pass the cutpoint, and both the editorial board and the directors boards of both rheumatology societies have started to take steps in order to improve them. We sincerely think that, with everyone's help, we will succeed on our following attempt.

This is an invitation to you, Spanish-speaking rheumatologist, to join in this effort which has the objective of once again requesting an evaluation in 2009 and to have a scientific Rheumatology journal that is the reflection of

what is everyday done in our countries: the characteristics and diversity of the illnesses, the quality, knowledge, and research expressed in the wonderful mother tongue that we share with over 400 million persons.

We have a lot to say, published, and share in all areas of Rheumatology. We are counting with your participation! Without it, none of this will be possible. Let us go forward with a good spirit!