



EDITORIAL

Radiology now has an impact factor**Radiología ya tiene factor de impacto**

“Better late than never”

A popular saying

In June 2023 our journal *Radiología* obtained its first impact factor, thus fulfilling one of the most desired objectives of our radiological community, an achievement that reflects the joint work that has been carried out for many years by the Spanish Society of Medical Radiology (SERAM), the various editorial committees that have led the journal and by all the radiologists who in one way or another, as editors, reviewers, authors or readers, have contributed to the development and evolution of our journal to its current state.

Radiología, successor to the *Revista Española de Electrológica y Radiología Médica* [Spanish Journal of Electrológica and Medical Radiology], founded in 1912, has existed in its current form since 1963. Since then it has been the vehicle for the transmission of knowledge and research related to radiology in the Spanish language, as well as the forum for opinion and debate in our radiological community.

Clarivate Analytics measures the impact of a journal in terms of the citations received by the articles published and listed in the Web of Science, through the “impact factor”, which essentially measures the average number of citations received in a given year by the articles published in the journal during the previous two years. It is the best known indicator, not the only one, but the one officially used to define the importance of a journal, to compare the quality of scientific journals, to evaluate their relative importance and to assess the scientific quality of their contents.

Hence the importance of this achievement, a quality criterion that any journal worth its salt must have, which is a guarantee of the journal’s good work and an incentive for authors to submit their articles to it.

Congratulations, then, to the editors who preceded us, such significant names who have done so much for the journal: César Pedrosa, Juan Ramón Jiménez, Pepe Cáceres, Luis Ramos, Daniel Tejedor, Joaquín Ferreirós and José María García Santos.

Looking back, among our journal’s milestones that have ushered in enormous advances in quality, undoubtedly marking its evolution towards the “longed-for impact factor”, it is worth highlighting among the most recent, its inclusion in Medline, from 2006, with Dr. Ferreirós, and in later years under the leadership of Dr. García Santos, the improvement of the editorial circuit with the implementation of the current electronic system, the increase in the input and quality of articles and their publication ahead of print, as well as the launch of the online version, and the call for the first editorial grant in March 2012.¹ In recent times, the translation into English of the entire contents of the journal (2019) has contributed to its internationalisation, achieving greater dissemination and visibility, exponentially increasing the downloading of its articles on the various platforms; the progressive “professionalization” through increasingly specific and regulated training in editorialism of the members of the editorial team, and the promotion of the journal among the younger generations of radiologists, the attention to up-and-coming talent, in a clear commitment to the future, have also been strategies that have contributed to the this achievement.

Moreover, the improvement of the accreditation mechanism for the journal’s continuing education activities, which in 2021 became part of the Spanish Medical Professional Accreditation Council for Continuing Professional Development (SEAFORMEC), with a more effective assessment of these activities (9 credits), means that they are followed by a large number of radiologists, justifying *Radiología* being considered an extraordinarily useful tool for continuing education.²

Of note is the bibliometric analysis for the 2010–2019 period, which analysed numbers, types and origins of articles, as well as numbers of citations and downloads and was published in 2021, provided interesting information on the journal’s history and current situation, enabling changes to and improvements in the editorial strategy to be proposed.³

Each new editor-in-chief has built on the achievements of the previous editorial board; in this coordinated way, the measures and improvements made by an editorial board

have been given their fullest expression in subsequent years; everything is linked together, this is how this great family that is our journal—editors, reviewers, authors, trainees, readers—progresses and evolves, in a word: it works.

The journal is of great importance not only because it is the organ of expression of SERAM, but also because it defines the level and quality of the scientific society to which it belongs. *Radiología* is our Society's calling card. It is a showcase that we must take advantage of, using it to publish with quality, and also to disseminate through our citations. In this respect, it is worth considering the key role that Spanish radiologists have played by publishing their best articles in this journal instead of publishing them in other journals with an impact factor. We can say that this sacrifice, this personal renunciation by many Spanish radiologists, has contributed to the positioning of our journal on the stage that Spanish radiology deserves.¹

I write these lines as editor-in-chief of the journal during the period chosen by Clarivate Analytics for the calculation of the impact factor. As already mentioned, in June 2023 *Radiología* obtained its first impact factor: 1.3. This is higher than our most optimistic estimates, which were around 0.8.

This impact factor corresponds to the previous year, 2022, and is related to the number of citations obtained by our journal during the two previous years, 2020 and 2021.

It is therefore an important achievement that must not only be maintained but also built on in the journal's next impact factor for 2023, which will be published in June 2024. It will be based on citations received during the years 2021 and 2022, but thereafter citations from 2023 and beyond will be counted, so I encourage all radiologists involved to continue working hard to increase the impact factor in line with the quality of the journal.

This result comes as a gift, like a breath of fresh air after a tough editorial period, that of the COVID pandemic, in which, with most of the editors and reviewers involved in more urgent care missions, they were able to balance both tasks through significant effort and personal commitment, ensuring that the editorial dynamism of the journal did not suffer greatly. This is an aspect for which these colleagues are to be thanked.

Radiología was originally conceived as a journal aimed at Spanish and Latin American radiologists; it has progressively changed that orientation, with the translation into English of all its contents making it a journal with a more international projection, if that can be said. We are also witnessing a progressive change in the physiognomy of the journal, which, with increasingly better objective indicators of quality, is becoming a forum in which high-level original research appears alongside articles dedicated to continuing education. Even though awards were instituted in 2020 for the most distinguished editors and reviewers and for the article with the highest number of citations, we will always be indebted to the invaluable and altruistic cooperation of all radiologists involved in these editorial tasks.

An important aspect for the future is not only the impact factor, but also the involvement of the new, younger generations, in an evolution that allows us to speak of "editorialism" as a new discipline in which to train our residents, instilling in them from the beginning of their training

period the basic notions of this field, awakening their interest in publishing and guiding them along this new path.⁴

There are other important challenges to be taken on, such as the role of artificial intelligence, which we must see as an opportunity to be taken on in the immediate future, a future in the hands of these new generations of increasingly well-prepared radiologists who, led by the current editor-in-chief, Dr García Villar, will know how to push our journal and our speciality to unsuspected limits.

As a current overview: *Radiología's* greatest incentive is to offer authors prestige, visibility and recognition, not only within Spanish radiology, but also internationally, thanks to the English version of the journal, which is an important source of citations for the papers published in it. But *Radiología* is also an ideal medium for Spanish-speaking radiologists to get started in the field of scientific publications and for the publication of review articles that contribute to their training.⁵

To be able to serve SERAM and its members has always been an honour and a privilege, so when Dr García Villar asked me to write an editorial on the subject of the impact factor, I did not hesitate. The journal, our Society's calling card, reflects what we Spanish radiologists are, and together with the National Congress represents the maximum scientific activity of our Society, so what better task to get involved in.

See this editorial as a hymn to integration, teamwork and the involvement of new generations in it, as well as to increasingly professionalised training in the field of editorial work, which together will carry us to ever greater heights in the journal's appreciation. The impact factor is a good start, but we should not stop there. We must be ambitious.

As William Shakespeare said: "We know what we are, but know not what we may be".

Take heart.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares that he has no conflicts of interest.

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