

ACTAS UROLÓGICAS ESPAÑOLAS

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Editorial

Continued training through ACTAS

Formación continuada a través de ACTAS

Two decisive events for the history of ACTAS occurred during 2008. First, ACTAS was included in January in the *Science Citation Index Expanded* (SCI-E), thus becoming part of the selective database of scientific journals from which the *Journal Citation Report* is prepared. Thus, the first impact factor in the history of ACTAS will see the light in mid 2010. Second, in June, during the National Congress of Urology, held together with the American Confederation of Urology (CAU), this organization decided to consider ACTAS as its official journal. These facts have undoubtedly placed ACTAS in a privileged strategic position. On the one hand, ACTAS is the only journal in Spanish included in the SCI-E. On the other hand, ACTAS has become an international journal with a great diffusion potential because it is not only accessible to the Spanish-speaking world, but also to Anglo-Saxon readers through its online version, published both in Spanish and English.

To approach this new stage, the Board of Directors of the Spanish Urology Association (AEU), at the request of ACTAS management, approved a strategic plan presented at the plenary meeting held on November 2008.

This plan detailed all specific actions to be done, and the organization and implementation of available resources to achieve two well-defined strategic objectives:

1. To achieve the greatest impact factor possible.
2. To become established as the reference urology journal in Spanish worldwide.

The strategic lines for achieving the first objective are well defined and are similar to those used by most scientific journals. As regards the second objective, three strategic action lines have been designed: a) to improve the service provided by the journal; b) to develop our own personality and editorial line; and c) to reinforce the institutional cooperation between AEU and CAU.

As regards the first action line, the best service a journal may provide to its readers is to be useful for them. To this end, there are two highly specific actions: translation of

scientific information from English into Spanish to help readers overcome the language barrier, and educational actions including accredited continued training through ACTAS.

Continued training is a right for all urologists. Continued training is therefore a duty and a commitment for the AEU, as reflected in Chapter IV of the AEU regulations on the continued training office. Dr. Miguel Unda recently took charge of this office. One of his initial measures was to develop a program of accredited continued training through ACTAS. His work has not only been effective, but also tremendously efficient, since in hardly three months he has achieved accreditation by SEAFORMEC (the Spanish system for accreditation of continued medical training) of the continued training program through articles published in ACTAS. The SEAFORMEC accreditation system represents an excellent quality support because this organization is formed by the General Council of Official Medical Associations, the Federation of Spanish Scientific-Medical Societies (FACME), the Conference of Deans of Medicine Schools, and the National Council of Medical Specialties. In addition, this system uses the same procedures and scales as the Continued Training Committee of the National Health System. But above all, SEAFORMEC is part of the accreditation system of the *Union Européenne de Médecins Spécialistes* (UEMS) and has signed collaboration agreements with the US Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the American Medical Association (AMA). Such agreements are greatly beneficial for Spanish and South American urologists because the credits obtained are compatible with other regional, national, and international training schemes.

The continued training program through ACTAS starts in this first issue of 2010 of the journal. The program consists of answering five questions on the selected article, identified by a specific anagram. The article selected for obtaining credits in this first issue could not be more appropriate for the training purposes intended. It is a translation of an article published in *European*

Urology on the European Guidelines on invasive bladder cancer.

The continued training program through ACTAS is a useful service, and I hope that it becomes strongly established. I therefore encourage all Spanish-speaking urologists to use it, because whenever they answer the questions asked, they will not only improve their training, but will also contribute

to achievement of the objectives set for this common project called ACTAS.

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