

Twenty five years of “Inmunología”

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Thirty two years ago, in December 1975, less than one hundred immunologists gathered in Barcelona under the aegis and hospitality of Prof. Jordi Vives, to hold what became the First Congress of the Spanish Society for Immunology. It was not a winter of discontent: Less than one month before Franco had died, and the end of the dictator had brought to Spain a new time of hope for the future. I was then completing my first year as a graduate student, and remember the Congress as an expression of that hope. I still recall the active discussions inside and outside the packed and hot conference room where the sessions were held, in the former facilities of the Medical Association, close to the hills that surround the city. That seed was well planted, and in May 2008 the Society will celebrate its 34th Congress.

Seven years passed, and in 1982 the first issue of “Inmunología” appeared. In its presentation, Jordi Vives -again Jordi Vives- set forth the aims and scope of the Journal, as well as the challenges and difficulties involved: The idea behind “Inmunología” was to “introduce in our professional milieu a new stimulus to those already existing, namely periodic meetings, congresses, or informal contacts, thus contributing to our intellectual enrichment”. At the same time, the editorial team was well “aware of the fact that the level of Immunology in spanish-speaking countries was below of what one should expect”. Although in many cases this was due to strong

socioeconomic difficulties, “in other countries, including Spain, the status of Immunology is well below its level of economic development”. In this situation, a goal of “Inmunología” was “not to solve but to contribute, if modestly, to improve this situation”. And last, but not least, it was plain to its promoters that “the publication of a new Journal is not an easy task. It is even more difficult to achieve its continuity while increasing its scientific level”, calling for the assistance of all the colleagues to this purpose.

It is evident that, during the twenty five years that have passed since then, Immunology as a science has undergone a great progress, both quantitative and qualitative, in Spanish hospitals, universities, and research centers, despite doubts, setbacks, tearings and wounds that can only take place in a living body. The same can be said of some other spanish-speaking countries in America. It is this progress, the generous effort of its different Editors, and the support of its contributors that has allowed the continuity of “Inmunología” along these twenty five years. Indeed, as stated before, “the publication of a new Journal is not an easy task. It is even more difficult to achieve its continuity while increasing its scientific level”, but we are determined to do so while widening the accesibility of its contents not only by the recent improvements in its electronic accession, but also by applying for its re-inclusion in the PubMed/MedLine databases.