



Annals of Hepatology: Viewpoints from Afar

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It is an honour to be invited to write the first editorial of the New Year for the *Annals of Hepatology*. 2018 is the 16th year of the *Annals*, a journal that was created by Dr. Nahum Mendez-Sanchez who has been the editor-in-chief since the beginning. The *Annals* started as the official journal of the Mexican Association for the Study of Liver (MASL) and the Latin American Association for the Study of Liver (LASL) and, as hepatologists living and practicing outside of Mexico and Latin America, we felt that a perspective of the *Annals* from “the outside” may be insightful.

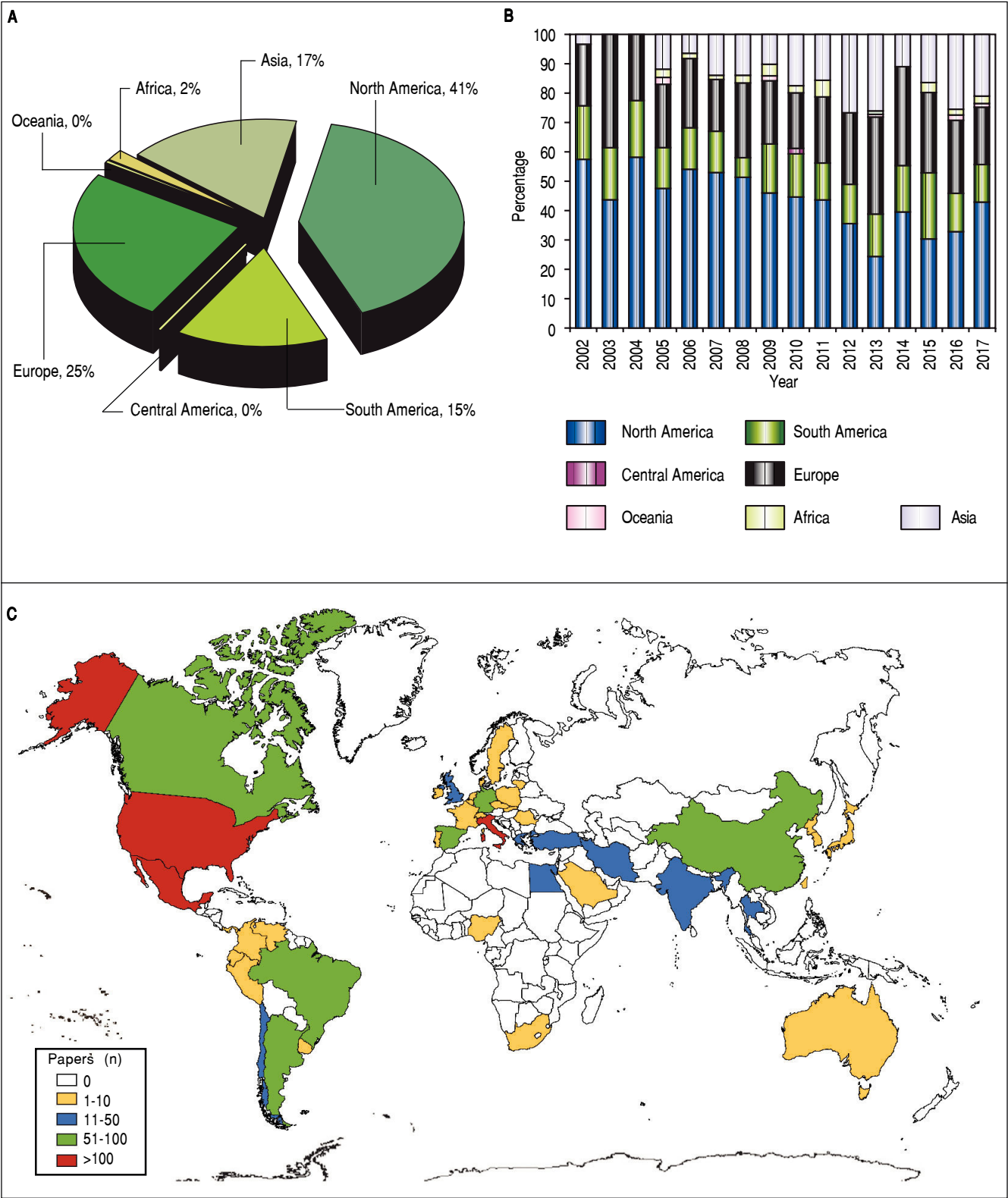
In the 16 years of its existence, the *Annals* has quickly evolved from a regional journal to a truly international journal that still maintains its mission of promoting academic Hepatology within Mexico and Latin America (Annex 1). Indeed, the growing international profile of the *Annals* has most likely enhanced the profile of both MASL and LASL as well as its members. The evolution of the *Annals* is reflected by the growing proportion of original research papers published and the increasing number of papers published each year (Annex 2). Clinical research remains the main stay of the *Annals* as this reflects the interests of the majority of its readership and contributors but basic science is not ignored as interesting bench research papers can still find a home here (Annex 3). The liver topics covered by the *Annals* (Annex 4) span the spectrum of clinical hepatology: from viral hepatitis to NAFLD to liver transplantation and liver oncology. In terms of metrics, the *Annals* is indexed in all major scientific bibliographic databases including PubMed/Medline. The *Annals* has always had a respectable impact factor that has, in recent past years, been close to 2.0 or greater than 2.0. A review of the *Annals* editorial staff (i.e. associate editors and editorial board members) reflects its international profile as its members span the globe from, not only Mexico and South America, but also Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. A glance of the table of contents

of the *Annals* over the years can resemble a “Who’s Who” of global hepatology with many of hepatologists biggest names contributing papers to the journal. Certainly, their great contributions also produced dozens of highly cited papers (Annex 5). The fact that the Canadian Association for the Study of Liver (CASL) later became an official affiliated society of the *Annals* further underscores the impact the journal has had.

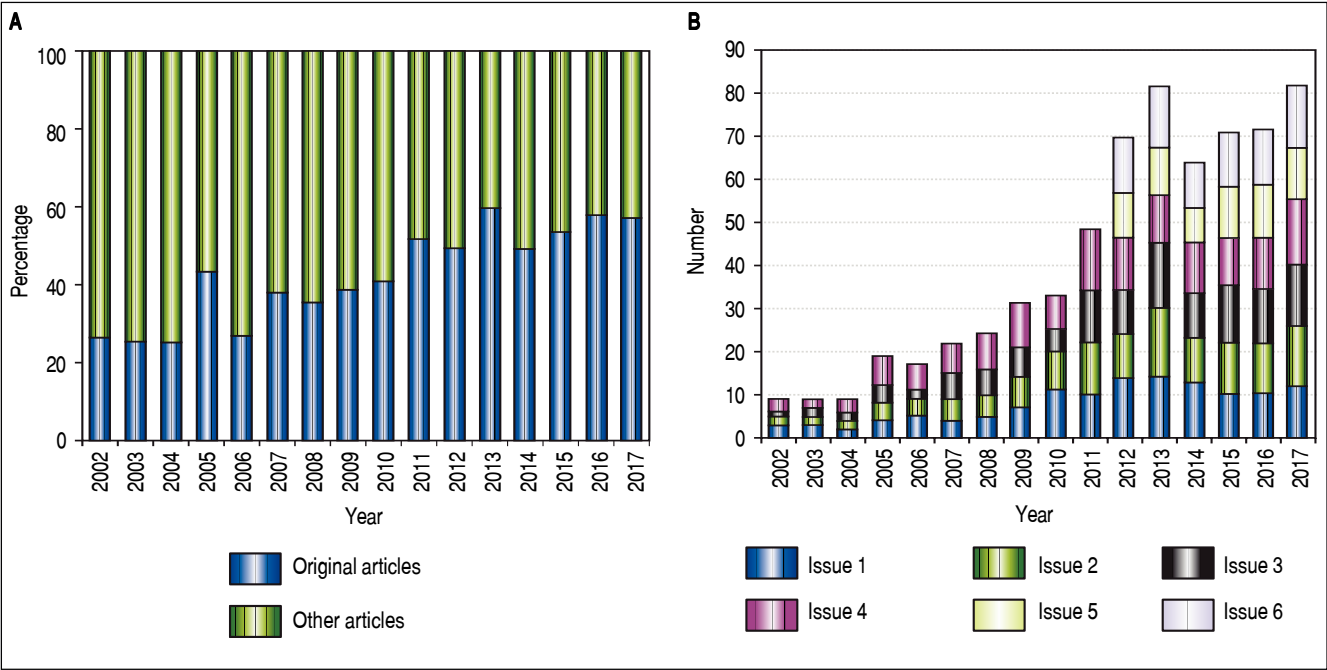
For a journal to accomplish what the *Annals of Hepatology* has managed to do within a relatively short time period reflects vision, dedication as well as pure and simple hard work. To use an analogy from the world of American professional sports, a football team cannot win a Superbowl championship without an outstanding quarterback. In the case of medical journals, that quarterback is the editor-in-chief and in the specific case of the *Annals of Hepatology*, that superstar quarterback is Dr. Nahum Mendez-Sanchez. Dr. Mendez-Sanchez has been there from day one, carefully guiding the *Annals* to respectability and more. His efforts have been recognized as we note that in 2014 when the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) announced its inaugural class of Fellows (i.e. FAASLD), Nahum was among this select group. We certainly hope that Dr. Mendez-Sanchez continues to guide the *Annals* for the foreseeable future as it has truly become a journal that is important and needed in the field of Hepatology. In a world that seems to be threatened by a proliferation of predatory journals, some of which claim to cover hepatology and liver disease, we need a strong *Annals of Hepatology* more than ever.

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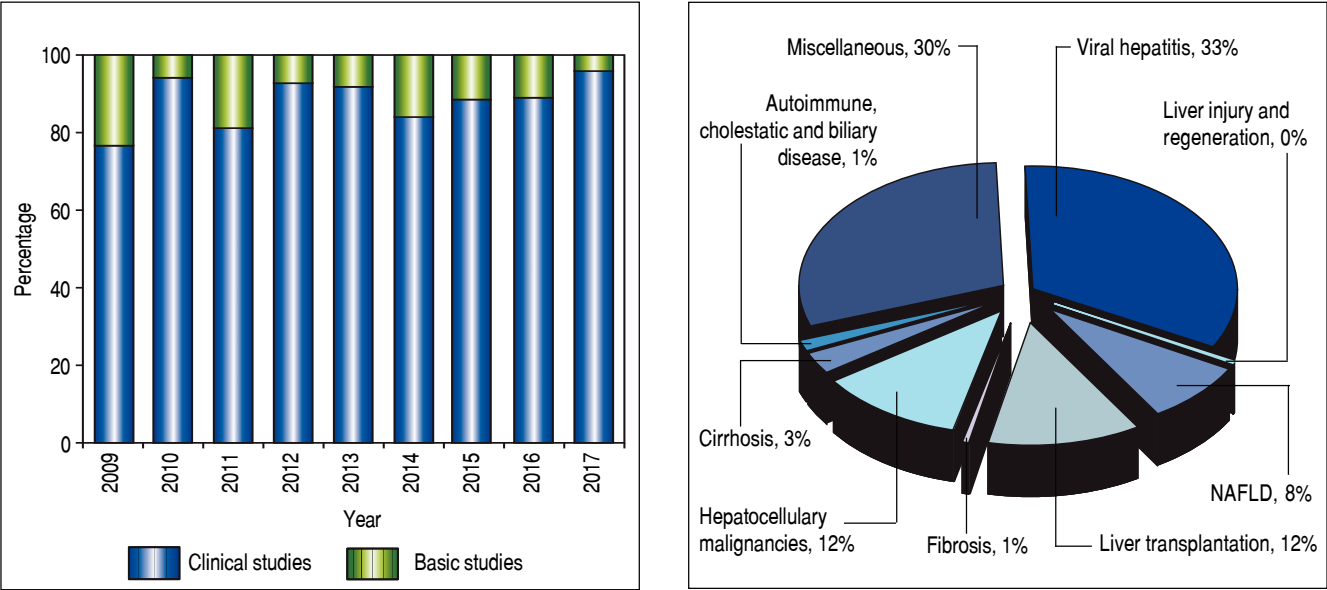
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Annex 1. Global distribution of papers in Annals of Hepatology. A. Proportion of papers according to the continents. B. Dynamic change in proportion of papers according to the continents. C. Geographical distribution of papers according to the number of papers.



Annex 2. Proportion and number of original papers in Annals of Hepatology. **A.** Dynamic change in proportion of original papers over time. **B.** Dynamic change in absolute number of original articles over time.



Annex 3. Type of original articles with publication year in Annals of Hepatology.

Annex 4. Topics of original articles in Annals of Hepatology.

Annex 5. The top ten most cited papers according to the Scopus in *Annals of Hepatology*.

No.	Authors	Title	No. Citation	Year	Volume issue page
1	Bellentani S., Marino M.	Epidemiology and natural history of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).	169	2009	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 8 (Suppl. 1), pp. S4-S8.
2	Cesaratto L., Vascotto C., Calligaris S., Tell G.	The importance of redox state in liver damage.	134	2004	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 3 (3), pp. 86-92.
3	Amarapurkar D., Kamani P., Patel N., Gupte P., Kumar P., Agal S., Baijal R., Lala S., Chaudhary D., Deshpande A.	Prevalence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: Population based study.	131	2007	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 6 (3), pp. 161-163.
4	Motola-Kuba D., Zamora-Valdés D., Uribe M., Méndez-Sánchez N.	Hepatocellular carcinoma. An overview.	111	2006	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 5 (1), pp. 16-24.
5	Kershenobich Stalnikowitz D., Weissbrod A.B.	Liver fibrosis and inflammation. A review.	101	2003	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 2 (4), pp. 159-163.
6	Almeda-Valdes P., Cuevas-Ramos D., Aguilar-Salinas C.A.	Metabolic syndrome and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.	96	2009	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 8 (Suppl. 1), pp. S18-S24.
7	Gutierrez-Grobe Y., Ponciano-Rodríguez G., Ramos M.H., Uribe M., Méndez-Sánchez N.	Prevalence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in premenopausal, postmenopausal and polycystic ovary syndrome women. The role of estrogens.	87	2010	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 9 (4), pp. 402-409.
8	Rodríguez-Garay E.A.	Cholestasis: human disease and experimental animal models.	77	2003	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 2 (4), pp.150-158.
9	Wong V.W.-S., Wong G.L.-H., Chim A.M.-L., Chu W.C.-W., Yeung D.K.-W., Li K.C.-T., Chan H.L.-Y.	Treatment of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis with probiotics. A proof-of-concept study.	76	2013	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 12 (2), pp. 256-262.
10	Hofmann A.F.	Biliary secretion and excretion in health and disease: Current concepts.	75	2007	<i>Annals of Hepatology</i> , 6 (1), pp. 15-27.