

Looking Back, Moving Forward!

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Port J Pediatr 2021;52:88-9

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25754/pjp.2021.23883>

The Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics is the official publication of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Pediatria. Its first issue dates from 1938, a total of 54 volumes have been published thereafter, currently on a quarterly basis.

As is the case with the most prestigious medical journals, the Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics, formerly known as Acta Pediátrica Portuguesa, has been reflecting on its editorial path.¹⁻⁶ Many of the challenges posed to this editorial team in the past are goals that have been achieved presently.⁷

The Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics has evolved through modernization and improvement of its scientific and editorial process quality. The thorough editorial process, based on a peer-reviewed system aimed at optimizing scientific dissemination, allowed the journal to achieve high standards and to be recognized nationally and internationally as a reference. This is evident from Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics having recently been indexed in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), SciELO database, and Scopus database. The journal has also been accepted as a member by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

It should be noted that the Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics editorial board is completely independent from the Sociedade Portuguesa de Pediatria. Likewise, it does not represent any commercial or academic institution, which guarantees complete exemption and impartiality.

In the last few years, there was an increment in the number of submitted articles (average number 230 per year) along with increased rejection rates (average around 47%). Every article submitted to Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics is evaluated by the editorial team and 30% are directly rejected (desk rejection) by the editors-in-chief. Only the most innovative and high-quality national or international articles initiate a rigorous process of peer-review by two independent and blinded reviewers, that reject 49% of the papers. All

the articles are subjected to this peer-review process, except for the editorials and some perspectives / commentaries. When the reviewers consider that it is important to evaluate the quality of the statistical analysis described in the articles, an evaluation by a statistician reviewer is offered. The Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics has an average receipt to publication time for articles that is comparable to the main international scientific publications: 130 days. Finally, all manuscripts are reviewed for correctness of English and for rigorous technical presentation. No aspect is left to chance, for the sake of the quality we want to achieve.

Looking back is, above all, projecting the future that we want to achieve and embracing the challenges that lie ahead. PubMed indexing and obtaining an impact factor are long-term goals that we hope to achieve in the short term. However, there are other ways to measure the scientific impact of our articles that derive from change as information flows within the scientific community and in which social networks take on a leading role (the new metrics).⁸⁻¹³ It is therefore important to motivate our authors and readers to disseminate scientific production through these means: Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics is on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. On the other hand, the Portuguese Journal of Pediatrics also wants to be a forum for open and multidisciplinary discussion. And fast! Starting in April 2021 it will be possible to access the articles online in an ahead-of-print section. Critiques on published articles, in the form of a letter to the editor or perspective and articles published by authors from other parts of the world, can greatly contribute to the variety and visibility of our journal.

Finally, we will have to revisit other topics such as translational medicine and evidence-based medicine and reflect on emerging discussions such as predatory publishing, collaborative models of scientific research (co-production of knowledge), among others.^{14,15}

A final word of thanks to all those who collaborate in the editorial process, especially the reviewers of

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Received: 02/03/2021 | Accepted: 03/03/2021 | Published online: 03/04/2021 | Published: 03/04/2021

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the articles who, giving up their free time, dedicate themselves to reading and criticizing the manuscripts, thus contributing to the scientific quality of the journal.¹⁶ We have a long way to go. We count on your (and our) ambition!

Keywords: Periodicals as Topic; Portugal

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