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In January 2010, the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology* received a new Editor-in-Chief appointed by a competitive civil-service examination for a four-year office. For the purposes of reaching the position of chief scientific forum in cardiology in Latin America and reinforcing our international position, several proposals were discussed and implemented in the first two years of the new administration. The main goals included improving the process of editorial review and quality of publications, as well as shortening the lead time between submission and publication of manuscripts, which attracted more and more papers from Postgraduate Programs in the field of Cardiology in Brazil and greater number of manuscripts from foreign research centers. In addition to improving the dissemination of quality scientific research, another goal was sparking off scientific debate on cardiovascular diseases by encouraging the publication of Editorials and Points of Views prepared by renowned Brazilian and foreign experts, and publishing Letters to the Editor.

From the substantial increase of Brazilian scientific production in cardiology in recent years, especially resulting from the intense activity of Postgraduate programs in Brazil, each month we have an increasing number of submissions. A number of manuscripts come from research centers in foreign countries, mainly from Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

To meet this demand, the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology* now has the collaboration of ten Associate Editors, and the body of reviewers who cooperate with the periodical has also expanded. Our process of editorial review is now upgraded with electronic systems for the submission and follow-up of manuscripts. The improvement of editorial review procedures also included the redesign and standardization of recommendations during the review process, with emphasis on the originality and relevance of the topics discussed, as well as on the validity and reliability of the findings presented and on the level of

importance of information for the progress of science. These actions had a positive impact on the quality of the selected manuscripts and reduced the period of evaluation of manuscripts submitted for publication. Now, the first opinion of reviewers is sent within an average period of one month. Besides this, the final opinion for the manuscripts accepted for publication has been issued within an average period of 120 days.

By streamlining the process of final review and editing after approval of manuscripts, we could also decrease the time to publish the manuscripts. Currently, with an average time of ten months between the initial submission and the effective publication of manuscripts, and less than nine months until the English version is posted to PubMed, the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology* can ensure the quick inclusion of the researchers' papers in the international literature.

With more than 1,100 manuscripts peer-reviewed for publication between 2010 and 2011 by the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology*, the journal's acceptance rates decreased to around 25% for Original Articles, 20% for Review Articles and only 10% for Case Reports. On the other hand, in this period, 322 Original Articles were published, not to mention Review Articles, Case Reports and other publications. The publication of manuscripts and discussions related to scientific debate was encouraged, since at least one Editorial and one Point of View is published, as well as a growing number of Letters to the Editor in each issue of the journal.

In 2010 and 2011, the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology* had their first Impact Factors published in the Journal of Citation Report of Thompson Reuters, which were 1.31 and 1.14, respectively. The score represents undoubtedly a great incentive for Brazilian and Latin American researchers who now have a high profile regional journal for the publication of their research. The level reached by this bibliometric parameter also opens new perspectives for better qualification of Postgraduate Programs in Brazil, with lines of research in the field of cardiology, in the government agencies, because it is currently ranked by the Brazilian Office of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes) from the Ministry of Education as a Qualis B2 journal. The future evolution of this parameter and our bibliometric indexes depends on the strengthening of our editorial quality and the scientific level of the manuscripts published. In addition, it also depends on the support of all Brazilian researchers in not failing to cite the articles published by the *Archives* in their new publications.

Finally, following the rapid development of technology and the media, this issue of the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology* is available in the form of e-book in PDF format,

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## Message from the Editor

enabling access to the full journal through Tablets and computers. The new format also allows the incorporation of videos as well as the expansion of the information provided in the manuscripts published. Besides this, a virtual library was created for quick access to the manuscripts and information published.

For a specialty journal such as the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology*, the results accomplished actually represent the efforts of all society members sponsoring it. Accordingly, we expect a continuous and close collaboration from all members of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology in order to boost our journal.