

The *Brazilian Annals of Dermatology* Symposium *Simpósio dos Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia*

In the recently held 61st Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Dermatology (SBD – Portuguese acronym), the *Annals'* editorial staff gave sequence to the activity that is now becoming a tradition in the SBD meetings, namely, "The *Brazilian Annals of Dermatology* Symposium", dedicated mainly to the journal's partners and current and potential collaborators. As in the previous meetings, the goal was to present and discuss relevant themes regarding the quality, up-to-datedness and visibility of the *Annals*.

Presentation of the theme "Importance of writing in the quality of scientific papers" tried to call the attention of everyone involved with scientific production and publication, whether or not in the *Annals*, to the importance of continuing improvement in scientific writing skills, especially capacity to summarize, clarity, fluidity, up-to-dateness and fidelity to the data when writing a scientific report. Compliance to the language, correct anatomic and semiological descriptions, use of academic vocabulary and constraint in the use of colloquial language have also been remembered as part of the overall objectives of everyone involved with the *Annals* and its quality standards.

The lecture on "The importance of descriptors (key-words) in health sciences" attempted to highlight the correct usage of a vital item in the authors' interests, that is, how their articles can be listed and found in the various indexing bases. Also shown was the importance of knowing and consulting the DeCS at the address <http://decs.bvs.br>, in order to choose, according to priorities, the existing descriptors, which are adequate for the article being submitted. Also regarding this issue, it is worth remembering the editorial published in the *Brazilian Annals of Dermatology* (*Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia* 2005; 80:457-458).

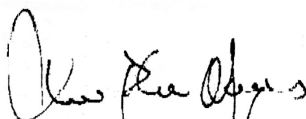
The subject of "Methodological designs applied to Dermatology" tried to demonstrate in a very creative way, tuned to the course on Scientific Methodology taking place in the same meeting, the importance of fitting the method to the formulated scientific hypothesis, as well as all restrictions imposed on study design,

execution and data collection.

The quality of clinical case reporting was likewise highlighted during presentation of the theme "Photographic documentation. Photo Archives. Illustrations". The concept of digital photography, the importance of variables such as illumination, background, positioning and lesion framing, distance from target lesion, picture standardization for comparative analyses were some of the presented and discussed items. It is unnecessary to mention the number of clinical cases of interest that are compromised, when undergoing editorial evaluation, because of the inadequacy of photographic documentation.

The *Annals* visibility was the central issue of the presentation on "Bibliographic references. Information search engines. Impact factor". Method for calculation of the Impact Factor (IF), number and relative ranking of Dermatology journals in the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) database, factors interfering in the composition of journal impact factors, the SciELO calculation system and the IF of the *Brazilian Annals of Dermatology* were presented. Still about this issue, it is worth to cite the article "Brazilian medical publications: citation patterns for Brazilian-edited and non-Brazilian literature", just published on *Braz J Med Biol Res* 2006; 39:997-1002, which explains, among other items for reflection, the tendency Brazilian authors have to cite articles published in international journals, instead of those published in journals edited in the country. Still regarding visibility of the *Annals*, the informed number of accesses to the journal's gateway (www.anaisdedermatologia.org.br) was exceptional, and has been monthly increasing, as has the number of subscription requests.

The pertinence of presentations and subsequent discussions has demonstrated that the Symposium is indeed worthwhile, and it has acted as a stimulus to the commitment, by increasingly more colleagues, to the mission of maintaining and increasing quality, up-to-dateness and visibility of the journal that represents the Brazilian dermatological community. □



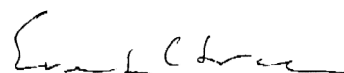
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