

The right time for a new leadership in *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria*

A hora e a vez de uma nova liderança na *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria*

It is sadly and also with the sense of an accomplished task that we write this farewell editorial to our readers after almost ten years leading the editorship of *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria* (RBP). From this year onwards Rodrigo Bressan, Beny Lafer and Marcelo Fleck will be the journal directors. Luis Rohde will continue during the year 2008 in order to assure the continuity of our administration.

In 1998, Miguel Roberto Jorge and Rogério Aguiar invited us to lead the journal which at that time was called *Revista da Associação Brasileira de Psiquiatria* (ABP) e da *Asociación Psiquiátrica de América Latina* (*Revista da ABP/APAL*). The journal, which since 1999 was called *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria*, had the mission of divulging the knowledge generated in Latin America and in the Caribbean, besides propagating a continuous medical education by means of updates and supplements to mental health professionals.

In Table 1 we recall the several measures we adopted at that time to achieve these objectives. We also acknowledge the collaborators who helped us implement those measures. Among the main achievements we highlight the indexing of RBP in Index Medicus/MedLine in 2003, and in the database of Institute of Scientific Information (ISI), in 2005. There are few indexed journals in developing countries. Of the 222 indexed psychiatry journals in these databases, only nine (4.1%) are from developing countries.¹ We belong today, therefore, to a restricted number of journals which succeeded to overcome the language and stigma barriers.

The next step is to become an increasingly respected journal and one of the most important indices for this evaluation is the impact factor (IF). A non-official calculation by Kieling and Gonçalves² suggests that our impact factor in 2007 (which will be official by the middle of this year), will be around 1, making the RBP one of the main scientific journals in Brazil.

The higher visibility of RBP has also been noticed in the recently launched SCImago Journal & Country Rank (<http://www.scimagojr.com>), which compiles data from the Scopus database. According to this source both the number of citations and the number of citations per article have grown around 10-fold in the period between 2002 and 2006.

There are many criticisms to the use of indices such as the IF as the only indication of the quality of a journal. A bad article may be much cited and the estimation of the IF favors journals that publish reviews. Authors tend to cite peers from their own research field and to cite mainly articles in English.³ Thus, the best way of evaluating the quality of a journal should include the composition of several factors instead of exclusive indices. For example, some editors propose the inclusion of citations in guidelines, books, or Cochrane reviews,³ as well as measures of how the articles are being read from the letters to the editor and their clinical impact. Other indices may involve data related to the percentage of acceptance of articles, the time elapsed between their submission and acceptance/publication, as well as different measures of their penetration in the international literature. In this sense, RBP's acceptance index reaches now 40%

Table 1 – Main accomplishments of the Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria in the last years (1998-2008)

Year	Accomplishments	Acting president of the RBP in the period of time
1998	New editors-in-chief to be in charge of the guidance of the RBP, with the proposal of performing broad changes with independence and autonomy; Geraldo Busatto and Isabel Altenfelder Bordin are nominated as associate editors and Eduardo Yacoponi as editor of the Book Review section; A professional executive editorship was created, Claudio Scillag in charge as Managing Editor.	Rogério Wolf de Aguiar
1999	The name of the journal was changed to Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria; A broad reformulation in order to meet international demands was launched. Change in the national and international editorship based on criteria of scientific productivity; Indexing in the databases of <i>Scientific Electronic Library Online</i> (SciELO); Creation of the Memory of Psychiatry section under the responsibility of Paulo Dalgalarondo and the publication of two annual supplements; RBP is also fully published in digital format (www.scielo.br/rbp).	Miguel Roberto Jorge
2000	RBP is classified as a national A journal (CAPES); Hélio Lauer becomes the person in charge of the covers of RBP; All original articles are reviewed by a statistician, Mariana Curi.	Miguel Roberto Jorge
2001	Mauro Aranha and Flavio Kapczinski are in charge of the "Books Review" section; Ana G. Hounie and Waldo Mermelstein take responsibility for the technical review and translation into English.	Marco Antonio A. Brasil
2002	Original articles and brief communications published in English; Marcos T. Mercadante replaces Geraldo Busatto as associate editor; Case Report section is created, being in charge Andrea Marques.	Marco Antonio A. Brasil
2003	RBP is indexed in <i>Index Medicus/MedLine</i> and classified as International C (CAPES); Luis Augusto Rohde and Rodrigo Bressan replace Isabel Altenfelder Bordin as associate editors. Hermano Tavares in charge of the section "Case Report"; Fernanda Vergueiro is hired as executive secretary. On-line submission process implemented aiming at higher speed, quality and control.	Marco Antonio A. Brasil
2004	RBP starts being published in Portuguese and in English, both in online and printed versions; Carlos Hoexter is hired as the commercial and administrative manager and Maria Luiza Mattos as editorial coordinator; Librarians standardize and review the references' format; adoption of a modern and bold graphic design. The Case Report section is redirected to the Letters to the editors section; A supplement is dedicated to the best posters presented in the Congresso Brasileiro de Psiquiatria (the annual ABP meeting); Christian Kieling starts working as Graphic Designer and Juliana B. Diniz as technical reviewer of the translations; Marcos Mercadante responsible for the editorship of covers.	Josimar Mata de Farias França
2005	RBP is indexed in the <i>Institute for Scientific Information</i> (ISI) and classified international B (CAPES); The number of original articles/brief communications increased to 10 per issue, published only in English, both in online and printed versions. Review and update articles remain only in Portuguese and another section is created (Special Section) for reviews and updates in English in order to meet the needs of the international scientific community; Supplements start being published in Portuguese (printed version) and also in English (online); Fast-track policy for articles considered as having an exceptional quality is implemented; Victor Fossaluzza joins the team of statisticians of RBP; Jeff Boyles complements the group to perform reviews of articles in English.	Josimar Mata de Farias França
2006	Luiz Augusto Rohde becomes one of the editors-in-chief; Christian Kieling, Ana Soledade Graeff-Martins and Marcelo Q Hoexter are nominated junior editors; RBP begins to publish online in-press articles (ahead publication); Creation of an exclusive site for RBP: www.rbpbrasil.org.br ; Creation of RBP's Newsletter; Bryan McGillis joins the revision of articles in English; Hermano Tavares becomes associate editor.	Josimar Mata de Farias França
2007	RBP creates a system for the online submission and evaluation of articles; Carlos Alberto de Bragança Pereira begins to lead the statistic editorship of RBP; Juliana B. Diniz becomes Junior Editor.	João Alberto Carvalho

of submitted articles. In 2005, the average time since the submission up to the approbation of an article was 130 days and 348 days since the submission up to the publication in RBP. These figures have improved to 99 and 230 days, respectively in 2006.²

Therefore, besides the IF, the most important is to assure the rapidity and quality of the editorial process in order to conquer a stable and solid position among the high-level international journals. The administrative changes which occurred in this period were fundamental to improve the quality of the journal and influence on its impact factor. The mission of the new team may include the active gathering of high-level articles and the speeding-up of the publishing process, without allowing the journal to lose its function of bringing an updated education to psychiatrists and other mental health professionals.

Provided these urgent challenges, the new goals must include the journal's insertion in Latin America and the Caribbean, acquiring higher international credibility about what it is being published and pursuing financial security for RBP. In order to implement all the changes the budget of the journal increased nearly 200-fold between 1998 and 2007, being the pharmaceutical industry its main source of resources. Therefore, we recommend that the editors give priority to the collection of resources in order to make a safety fund to assure the stability of RBP in moments of economic retraction when this kind of resources becomes scarcer.

Of note, our activity has been developed in great harmony with ABP (Brazilian Psychiatry Association), which enabled the accomplishment of our work with great support and no interference of any kind, what reflected the growth in maturity and the understanding of its institutional role. All we have done could not have been possible without the incentive of the pharmaceutical industry and the support of the national research and development agencies, especially the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) and Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) and Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos (FINEP). We also have to acknowledge that no progress could have been accomplished without the quantitative and qualitative growth of the Brazilian scientific production (associated to the expansion of post-graduate programs) and to the subsequent formation of researchers in the country, which has been translated not only in the submission of high-quality articles, but also in the high level of discernment of our reviewers.^{4,5}

Last but not least, we want to highlight the environment of full harmony which existed between the editors during all these years. The meetings have been always very participative, all the members talking at the same time, but having the attitude of reciprocal care, respect and friendship, which lasted during all the process. We are leaving the journal but we are already missing it, nonetheless, fully trusting the administrative, scientific and creative quality of our colleagues who are taking the responsibility for this task.

Euripedes Constantino Miguel

Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Universidade de São Paulo (USP), São Paulo (SP), Brazil

Jair de Jesus Mari

Department of Psychiatry, Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP), São Paulo (SP), Brazil

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