

## The Brazilian Journal of Pulmonology

Beginning with this issue, the Journal of Pulmonology, which has been the official journal of the Brazilian Society of Pulmonology and Phthysiology (SBPT) since 1975, will be known as the Brazilian Journal of Pulmonology. This change is the fruit of a lengthy debate, culminating in an online general meeting, online, of all members of the society. By a majority, it was decided that the proposed name change would go into effect. The inclusion of the adjective 'Brazilian' marks a moment at which the international visibility of the journal is on the rise. The scientific contributions brought to light through the vehicle of this journal have always merited international exposure and attention. The primary limitation of the journal was the fact that it was published exclusively in Portuguese, in an age in which English has become the *lingua franca* of the global scientific community. With the indexing of our journal on the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO),<sup>1</sup> the English versions of the journal abstracts became widely available. However, more importantly, we were presented with the opportunity to translate the entire journal into English and make it available on the Internet. This dream<sup>2</sup> of having a fully translated version on the Internet became a reality in January of 2003. Data provided by SciELO now shows that our journal is being accessed with increasing frequency from all parts of the globe via our site ([www.jornaldepneumologia.com.br](http://www.jornaldepneumologia.com.br)) or via the SciELO site ([www.scielo.br](http://www.scielo.br)).

In celebration of our name change, the print version of the journal has been given a new cover and has been reformatted. This new look chosen for the journal was just one among many versions that were under consideration, and I hope that it will be pleasing to all. However, these are merely cosmetic changes that pale in the light of the true differences, which are unrelated to name or appearance. The truly profound changes are structural in nature. Most significantly, as a response to a considerable increase in the number of articles submitted to the journal,<sup>3</sup> we have now established positions for Associate Editors. Aside from their impeccable qualifications, these new Associate Editors have distinguished themselves through their significant contributions to the journal over the last year. This restructuring will play a central role in the further development of the journal. By increasing the agility of the journal and by contributing new ideas, these new Associate Editors will help define and guide the destiny of the Brazilian Journal of Pulmonology.

Geraldo Lorenzi-Filho  
Editor of the Brazilian Journal of Pulmonology

### REFERENCES

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2. Lorenzi-Filho G. O sonho dos mil gatos. *J Pneumol* 2002;28:305-6.
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Over the last 20 years, scientific production in Brazil has increased by leaps and bounds. In 1984, Brazilian researchers published 2283 articles in "indexed" journals, being those journals recognized by the specific entity known as the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), located in the United States. In 2004, the number of Brazilian articles published in such journals jumped to 13,930, representing a more than six-fold increase, far greater than the worldwide increase over the same 20-year period. Despite this significant advance, Brazilian articles currently constitute only 1.5% (up from less than 0.5% in 1984) of the articles published worldwide. Articles published in journals such as the Brazilian Journal of Pulmonology are not included in these statistics.

The lion's share of Brazilian scientific production comes out of the 2000 postgraduate courses currently being offered in the country. In recent years, due to the obvious pressure to publish in ISI-indexed journals, the philosophy of instruction in such courses has changed markedly. This is just part of a broader attitude that defines excellence in (and therefore the worth of) a particular field based solely on the capacity to compete at the global level.

State-supported universities account for the majority of Brazilian scientific production. These institutions have been shrewdly punished and devaluated by all of the most recent government administrations, whether directed by former university professors or former machinists. However, in what has recently been referred to as a "productive slum", the government persists in paying low wages – while demanding more – in exchange for a modicum of prestige in its best quarters. A cursory analysis of articles published in the Journal of Pulmonology since its debut in 1975 reveals that 2/3 of the studies published in the early years originated in just a few universities, and the rest were submitted by members of non-university groups. As of last year, the number of original articles per issue had doubled (from 3 to 6). Due to the need to publish in international journals, the university postgraduate courses in Pulmonology have made publication in the Journal of Pulmonology a low priority. Currently, a greater number of original articles come from the medical schools.

The Journal of Pulmonology has made several great advances over the course of its 29-year history. The current warrior Editor, Dr. Geraldo Lorenzi-Filho, has put together a world-class editorial staff and has achieved the feat of publishing an online English-language version of the journal on the website of the Sociedade Brasileira de Pneumologia e Tisiologia (SBPT). The objective is clear: to have the journal "indexed" and make it available to a wider, international, readership. The quality of the articles is on par with that found in other, already indexed, journals of pulmonology. The number of original articles is growing, which will raise the bar even higher, resulting in greater quality. Within this context, the SBPT suggested and gained approval for, a name change – from the Journal of Pulmonology to the Brazilian journal of Pulmonology.

Floriano Peixoto (in the well-known novel by Lima Barreto in which Major Policarpo Quaresma is the main character) called Policarpo Quaresma a visionary for proposing a genuinely national agricultural project of Homeric proportions. In the same novel,

Policarpo also suggested that Tupi-Guarani be adopted as the official language of Brazil. Virtually every Brazilian knows the ending of the novel (*Triste fim de Policarpo Quaresma*; “The Sad End of Policarpo Quaresma”) - after denouncing the atrocities committed by the government, Policarpo was arrested, accused of treason and condemned to death.

The act of changing the name of our journal was not inspired by Major Quaresma’s example. We simply want to make readers

aware of the fact that certain articles in English about respiratory diseases were brought to light by a journal edited in Brazil, a country in which some of us take great pride.

Carlos AC Pereira  
President of the SBPT