

Change the Qualis Criteria!

Since CAPES published its revised QUALIS criteria, the Brazilian Medical Association (AMB - Associação Médica Brasileira) has been organizing a series of meetings, held at its headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil, starting in August of 2009, in partnership with the Brazilian Association of Scientific Editors (ABEC - Associação Brasileira de Editores Científicos). These meetings led to the publication of an editorial entitled Classification of journals in the QUALIS System of CAPES – URGENT need of changing the criteria! The editorial was signed by 62 editors of scientific journals and published in full in all of them, and in countless others, primarily in the health sciences, demonstrating that Brazil's periodicals are more and more committed to discussing the problems they share in common.¹

The scientific community remains concerned with the future prospects and direction of Brazilian periodicals.^{2,3} The editors present at the meeting of the 18 of March were therefore in a position to evaluate the repercussions of the first Editorial, which had been discussed at scientific events and meetings all over Brazil. The meeting was attended by Dr. Lilian Caló, who is scientific communication and assessment coordinator for SciELO, and who presented a comparative study of the Brazilian periodicals indexed by SciELO according to two different criteria: the first criterion was the ISI/JCR impact factor, which only uses journals indexed by Thomson Reuters, and the second was an index composed by simple addition of the ISI/JCR and SciELO impact factors. The SciELO impact factor, which includes all the periodicals it indexes, significantly modifies the number of citations and, consequently, raises the Brazilian periodicals' impact factors. Dr. Caló's presentation illustrated this fact more clearly, showing the percentages gained by adopting the composite index. It is clear that combining indexes, or creating equivalencies or several alternatives can promote improved quality among Brazilian journals, raising their visibility and making international indexation more likely. It is also of concern that Brazilian researchers now prefer to publish their work in foreign journals rather than choosing domestic publications. They choose to do this because it improves the ratings of their postgraduate departments, earns them greater impact factors and increases their H index; all entirely and exclusively a result of the revised criteria adopted by CAPES. Achievement in increasing the visibility and quality of Brazilian scientific production

should not be assessed on the basis of articles alone, but should also focus on improving our periodicals to the point at which they are recognized internationally.

Considering that the criteria have already been set for CAPES' current triennial assessment, the assembled editors decided to draft a second editorial containing a list of suggestions for the next assessment, to be sent to the administration at CAPES. The list of suggestions, which supplement those in the first editorial, is as follows:

- that the criteria used by CAPES to classify periodicals be revised, adopting the composite impact factor calculated by summing the ISI/JCR and SciELO impact factors;
- that a seat on the CAPES Scientific Committee be created for ABEC (the Brazilian Association of Scientific Editors) so that editor can be heard within the process;
- that CNPq be requested to create an "Editor's Scholarship" program to support scientific publishing and to be awarded to the editors of journals funded by CNPq. The objective of this project is to improve the quality of these journals by providing their editors with more time to dedicate to their editorial activities;

Additionally, the assembled editors decided to seek support for their criticisms and suggestions from the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (Academia Brasileira de Ciências), from FINEP and from Federal Deputy Eleuses Vieira de Paiva. At a later date the editors will request a detailed breakdown from CNPq of the criteria adopted for, and the results of, the distribution of the resources allocated through the Publishing Support Grants (Editais para Auxílio à Editoração). The editors intend to use these data to construct a database on the annual budgets of Brazilian periodicals, which will be useful for comparative analysis and mutual cooperation. Publication of these two editorials and promotion of discussion is one of our goals in seeking the recognition that Brazilian periodicals both need and deserve.

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This editorial is signed by:

Adagmar Andriolo	Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial
Alfredo José Afonso Barbosa	Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial
Arnaldo José Hernandez	Revista Brasileira de Medicina do Esporte
Aroldo F. Camargos	Revista Femina
Benedito Barraviera	Journal of Venomous Animals and Toxins including Tropical Diseases
Bogdana Victoria Kadunc	Surgical & Cosmetic Dermatology da Soc. Brasileira de Dermatologia
Bruno Caramelli	Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira
Carlos Brites	Brazilian Journal of Infectious Diseases
Dejair Caitano do Nascimento	Hansenologia Internationalis
Domingo M. Braile	Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular
Dov Charles Goldenberg	Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Plástica
Edmund Chada Baracat	Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira
Edson Marchiori	Revista Radiologia Brasileira
Eduardo de Paula Vieira	Revista Brasileira de Coloproctologia
Eros Antônio de Almeida	Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Clínica Médica
Flávia Machado	Revista Brasileira de Terapia Intensiva
Geraldo Pereira Jotz	Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cabeça e Pescoço
Gianna Mastroianni Kirsztajn	Jornal Brasileiro de Nefrologia
Gilberto Camanho	Revista Brasileira de Ortopedia
Gustavo Gusso	Medicina Família e Comunidade
Ivomar Gomes Duarte	Revista de Administração em Saúde
Izelda Maria Carvalho Costa	Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia
João Ferreira de Mello Júnior	Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology
Joel Faintuch	Revista Brasileira de Nutrição Clínica
José Antônio Baddini Martinez	Jornal Brasileiro de Pneumologia
José Eduardo Ferreira Manso	Revista do Colégio Brasileiro de Cirurgiões
José Eulálio Cabral Filho	Revista Brasileira de Saúde Materno Infantil
José Heverardo da Costa Montal	Revista da Associação Brasileira de Medicina de Tráfego
José Luiz Gomes do Amaral	Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira
José Luiz Martins	Archives of Pediatric Surgery
Jurandyr Moreira de Andrade	Revista Brasileira de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia
Leonardo Savassi	Revista Brasileira de Medicina de Família e Comunidade
Luiz Augusto Casulari	Brasília Médica
Luiz Eugenio Garcez Leme	Geriatrics & Gerontologia
Luiz Felipe P. Moreira	Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia
Luiz Henrique Gebrim	Revista Brasileira de Mastologia
Marcelo Madeira	Revista Brasileira de Mastologia
Marcelo Riberto	Revista Acta Fisiátrica
Marcus Bastos	Jornal Brasileiro de Nefrologia
Mário Cícero Falcão	Revista Brasileira de Nutrição Clínica
Mario J. da Conceição	Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia
Mauricio Rocha e Silva	Revista Clinics
Milton Artur Ruiz	Revista Brasileira de Hematologia e Hemoterapia
Milton K. Shibata	Arquivos Brasileiros de Neurocirurgia

Mittermayer Barreto Santiago
Nelson Adami Andreollo
Nivaldo Alonso
Oswaldo Malafaia
Olavo Pires de Camargo
Paulo Manuel Pêgo Fernandes
Regina Helena Garcia Martins
Renato Soibelman Prociandy
Ricardo César Pinto Antunes
Ricardo Fuller
Ricardo Guilherme Viebig
Ricardo Nitri
Rogério Dedivitis
Ronaldo Damião
Rosângela Monteiro
Sergio Lianza
Sigmar de Mello Rode
Tarcisio E.P. Barros Filho
Wallace Chamon
Winston Bonetti Yoshida
Zuher Handar

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Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Cancerologia
Revista Brasileira de Reumatologia
Arquivos de Gastroenterologia
Dementia & Neuropsychologia
Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cabeça e Pescoço
Urologia Contemporânea
Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular
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Brazilian Oral Research
Acta Ortopedica Brasileira
Arquivos Brasileiros de Oftalmologia
Jornal Vascular Brasileiro
Revista Brasileira de Medicina do Trabalho
