

Editor's Note

Dear reader,

We are very pleased to share with you some recent acquisitions made by the *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria* (Brazilian Journal of Psychiatry), as well as to communicate some necessary changes in editorial policy already in effect for 2005 (see also instructions for authors in this issue).

First, we would like to present some data regarding our journal: a) The *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria* (RBP) website, accessible via www.scielo.br, received 30,738 visitors in 2003. In the same year, 106,435 RBP articles were accessed on the website; b) The RBP is one of the ten most accessed journals at SciELO; c) Of the 63 articles published in 2003, 33% were written by authors with affiliations in foreign countries, demonstrating international penetration; d) We have been indexed for MEDLINE since 2004, which has been widely acclaimed; e) Our editorial staff now comprises 71 members, a substantial number of whom are employed by national or international universities; f) In 2004, 91 original manuscripts (articles or brief communications) were submitted to the RBP, and 34% of those were accepted for publication by the end of the year (24% were still being evaluated); therefore, the ratio of submitted to accepted manuscripts is well within the acceptable range for a publication in the area of mental health.

These data convince us that the principal mission of the RBP is to continue to be the vehicle by which the most worthy Brazilian and Latin American scientific articles on mental health are published, as well as to provide excellence in the continuing education of the Brazilian psychiatric community. This becomes even more relevant at a time in which national production in the area of mental health is reaching impact factors similar to those of some developed countries.¹

In view of these facts, and after long conceptual discussions among the editors in 2004, always following the general guidelines and indications of the board of the *Associação Brasileira de Psiquiatria* (Brazilian Psychiatric Association), we chose to make some changes to the editorial policies of the journal. We will continue to improve the RBP in the years to come, aiming at being indexed for the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), without ever losing sight of our principal missions. It is important to emphasize that new open-access databases have been created for researching citations of authors or studies. This will certainly have a significant affect on the hegemony of the ISI (see, for example, <http://scholar.google.com>).

From this issue on, the space allocated for original articles and brief communications will allow the publication of 10 such articles per issue. For logistical reasons and in order to maintain the same editorial quality that has characterized the RBP, original articles and brief communications will be only published in English, in both the print and online versions. This will guarantee international visibility for our researchers and will reduce the workload for our team, who will spared the arduous task of producing two separate versions of each issue (Portuguese and English). In 2004, this caused considerable difficulties for editorial review. Therefore, from now on, we will only accept the submission of original articles

and brief communications written in English, in accordance with the trend of most national scientific publications. In order to keep our commitment to continuing education, supplements will be published in Portuguese in the printed version and in Portuguese and English in the online version. Review and update articles will be published only in Portuguese in both the printed version and the online version. The RBP will continue to cover the areas of update and review in English through the inclusion, in some issues, of features called "special articles". These articles will be submitted in English and evaluated by the editorial board in order to determine the degree of their potential appeal to the international scientific community. We understand that changes in the editorial policies of a journal are subject to various opinions and interpretations. Therefore, we hope that we can always rely on our readers for constructive criticism and suggestions as to how we can make our RBP ever better.

Luis Augusto Rohde
Rodrigo Bressan
Marcos Mercadante
Jair Mari
Euripedes Constantino Miguel

Reference

1. Mari JJ, Bressan RA, Miguel EC. Mental health and psychiatric research in Brazil. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2004;184:273.