

EDITORIAL

Revista de Medicina, edited by academic students for a century

The same pioneering and innovating spirit that followed the creation of the São Paulo School of Medicine and Surgery in 1912 also appeared in the student initiative that created *Revista de Medicina*. In 1913, the Oswaldo Cruz Academic Center (*Centro Acadêmico Oswaldo Cruz*) was founded and, four years later, the first number of the *Revista de Medicina* (RM) was published. Thanks to its success, the creation of an academic student body to publish its issues became necessary, which led, in 1933, to the foundation of the Scientific Department of the School of Medicine of the University of Sao Paulo. Later this institution also began to play other roles within the student context.

Such journal, as a cornerstone, sought to strengthen the image of a still youthful School of Medicine, to convey high-quality scientific content and - in the words of Ovidio Pires de Campos, Professor of Physiology - to serve as a means to perpetuate Medicine “combining, in perfect communion of ideals, masters and disciples”.

Effort and dedication characterized the work of the entire RM team in order to keep this periodical alive over time. In this century of existence, we saw part of the advances in Medicine documented in these pages. We mourned the loss of figures who made history in the art of caring. We celebrated Brazilian achievements in a global context. We took pride in seeing former members of the editorial board become major characters in their areas. We lived the birth of the digital age and the transition of scientific journals. We also went through difficulties maintaining periodicity, which were overcome with desire to reach higher, determination and will to magnify our history. But, above all, we let ourselves be seduced by the love of medicine and science overflowing in much of its pages.

This special edition is to celebrate not only the art of medicine, but also to pay tribute to all those who RM has touched in some way: either as someone who had their first paper published in its pages, either as one of the past Journal’s Editor-in-Chief, or as a regular reader. Without any doubt, all of them have played an important part in this story.

The development of these volumes started a year before the date scheduled for launching. Numerous meetings were held in order to ensure that the most diverse aspects of medicine were included. Hundreds of invitations were sent to numerous national and international universities.

All articles were designed and reviewed to provide the reader with the best content. This is certainly the largest commemorative issue ever prepared.

While checking the result of that much work, I must confess that I felt touched by knowing I could be part of this history. There are three volumes: the first, “Historic Remarks of *Revista de Medicina*” brings the context and background of *Revista de Medicina* and of the University of São Paulo’s (USP) School of Medicine (FMUSP), which provide inspiration for one more century of work. In the second one, “Evolution of Medicine in the Medical School - The Role of the Academic Departments”, we come across visions of the various departments from FMUSP regarding their areas. The third one, “Medical Education: an International View”, finally brings articles from various world renowned universities discussing medical education, there could not be a more academic subject.

It is also possible to see a real *pot pourri* of tributes of various figures - including Nobel laureates and rulers - proving the incredible story of this publication and its impact which, let’s dare to say, is of global scale.

Allow me to go a little further. I herein allow myself to bring up one of the most charming factors in this journal: the **students, whether as managers, whether as consumers of RM**. I reckon that the RM publishing process, its history and impact on health care professionals have already been splendidly explored by other articles in this very issue.

Which is, in fact, **the role of the students in the journal’s management?** Many must wonder and ask themselves how it is possible for academic students to lead a scientific journal. Here is perhaps the most valuable point of this publication, which makes it different from all the others: it is fully directed by a student body. The students are the protagonists in every part of the article flow, namely: the receipt of the submission and its approval, blinding, forwarding to the advisory board, analysis its opinion, review, editing, publishing, indexing and designing its cover and logo.

Besides that, the themes for the thematic issues, the approval of the Advisory Board, the co-management of FMUSP Journal Publishing Center, the coordination of the RM’s elective course “A Practical approach to Scientific Writing”, the planning of events planning and even more decisions come ultimately from the Journal’s board of directors, composed of students. Hence, students who take part in the editorial board have the unique opportunity to get in touch with the behind-the-scenes of a scientific journal, an aspect of great value to learning.

Furthermore, the RM has recently gone through a major internal restructuring, better defining positions and roles such as Editor-in-chief, Executive Editor, Digital Media Coordinator, Issues Coordinator, Elective Courses Coordinator... Such demand was necessary due to the increase in the journal’s submissions. This provided greater organization and efficiency to the flow, and therefore more experiences for the student participants of the RM.

We can also say that RM, in providing opportunity for students to participate in both the article flow and the elective course “Practical Approach to Scientific Writing”, serves

as a “school” for publishers and an incubator for science lovers. No one leaves the editorial board the same way they entered; the situations experienced bring enduring knowledge to the students, speaking from my own experience.

Concurrently, offering an opportunity for students to publish their articles, sometimes the first of their careers, fosters scientific production and ends, brilliantly, a research cycle for the student, for instance. Also, feedbacks offered to every article submitted for evaluation are written with concern for medical education, which is an excellent way of learning.

Regarding the reader student, we always seek to innovate when it comes to information access – we are *Open Access* and every issue is available at USP Journal Portal online (www.revistas.usp.br/revistadc) – reaffirming our commitment to always be an updated learning tool. Featuring special sections such as “*Aprendendo*” (Learning), and also “*Entrevistas*” (Interviews) with prestigious professionals, the RM team reveals its academic character and its commitment to Medical training.

In this way the Journal enables the student’s learning as a whole: for students in general - who have a journal which is closer to them - and for those who work in it in particular, with the additional knowledge that the board of directors provides.

If on the one hand we have the advantage of having creativity and technology as allies, because we are students, on the other hand it becomes necessary to create spaces students do not have within the University. It is hard work. A great example is that we cannot receive direct funding from the University of São Paulo, nor from funding agencies. Maybe we will be able to change this situation in the near future, who knows? Nonetheless, we are proud to overcome some barriers: we are an academic journal indexed in various databases and the first of its kind to enter the USP Journal Portal. Not only are we a part of it, but we have also been breaking download records over the past few years. That way, we make room for other student journals, which brings more meaning to our work. Moreover, the RM is the only student body in FMUSP that is able to coordinate an elective course and to provide elective credits to undergraduate students, besides having its own office in the newly created FMUSP Journal Publishing Center, which gathers the journals published in this House. We aspire to keep this pioneering spirit.

Nowadays, a team of about 20 undergraduate students continues to write history. All due to a number of scholars who believed in this work for generations. For one century, major innovations that have transformed Medicine have been documented on RM, which has been able to grow and establish itself as an important Brazilian journal. All these memorable accomplishments were possible thanks to our devoted editorial board, ever-attentive professors, an open university and thousands of readers.

I wish that *Revista de Medicina* continues to be seen as a mirror and model for other Brazilian journals. In a way, a stimulus to the national medical scientific production. A true gateway to the academic students who will certainly, in the future, have many of their names remembered as major characters in Medicine, just as it has occurred throughout the past century.

We intend to keep publishing important studies, reviews, techniques and new ideas in the next century of great advances in the medical field. We commit ourselves to constantly following the global trends and maintaining the high quality of our articles.

Let us hear your comments both criticism and compliments in order to always ensure a journal that speaks to you! The history of our past will continue to inspire our journey and we intend to publish, for a hundred years more, the future of Medicine. Let the next 100 years come!!!

Have a great read!

Best regards,

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