

ACTAS

Derma-Sifiliográficas

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EDITORIAL

Actas Derma-sifiliográficas 2010: The Year After the Centenary

Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas 2010. El año después del centenario

Dear Readers:

The centenary is over. It has been a year of celebrations and a source of great satisfaction. It leaves behind an indelible memory: 100 years of *Actas*. Long after the journal was founded, it continues to flourish, in our opinion more than ever. The journal is in very good health, and it is now time to take stock of the goals we have achieved, and those that remain to be achieved.

Goals Achieved

The year 2009 was one of vigorous activity in commemoration of the centenary. Among the goals achieved we may include:

1. Activity in relation to the 100th anniversary of *Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas*

The activities related to the centenary celebration revolved around 3 basic features:

- “Centenary Editorial” section
Throughout the year 2009 we published several editorials written by those who have played an especially active role in the development of *Actas* throughout its history. These include former directors and editors-in-chief of the journal, experts in conducting literature searches, those responsible for awarding prizes for the best articles published, webmasters, and others. Their contributions have been essential in helping *Actas* to attain the privileged status it now enjoys.
- “Actas 1909-2009” section
Throughout this past year we have also published manuscripts related to articles of special relevance in *Actas* since it was founded. Written by first-rate authors, they recall the great figures that preceded us, especially the journal’s founder, Juan de Azúa,

with a look back at the first issue of *Actas*, the first article with photographs, and others on the role of women in *Actas*, the importance of controlling sexually transmitted diseases, contact dermatitis, leprosy, and—with particular reference to Spain—the toxic effects of adulterated rapeseed oil.

- “Looking Toward the Future in Dermatology” supplements

We would not, however, have wanted the centenary to be limited to a look back at the past. On the contrary, while paying our respects to those who came before us, since it was they who laid the groundwork that made it possible for the Academy and the journal to look to the future and continue to make progress both at home and internationally, it is a source of great satisfaction to have been able to count on the disinterested and future-oriented participation of internationally renowned scientists from all over the world. The excellent articles they contributed are of high scientific quality, and will serve to raise the journal’s international profile.

2. Accreditation of *Actas Derma-Sifiliográficas*

With the aim of improving critical reading ability, the accreditation of *Actas* was initiated in the January-February 2009 issue. Following the instructions provided by the Ministries of Education, Culture and Sports, and Health and Consumer Affairs to the General Council of Official Colleges of Physicians, the Spanish Society for the Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education set the credit limit at 14.8 credits, equivalent to 80 instructional hours. At the end of the year, all content of all the issues of the journal was included in order to obtain the maximum number of credits. Successful completion requires responding to 10 questions related to 4 relevant articles from each issue. This is done online through a website, and a score of 70% is sufficient to obtain continuing education credit.

3. Increasing the quantity and improving the quality of published material

During the year 2009 significant efforts were made to improve the quality of the articles. In this, the reviewers have played a decisive role. Setting the bar higher and shortening review deadlines improved the process of selecting articles for publication. This has resulted in a higher percentage of rejections, which is inevitable given the journal's space limitations. In 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, the percentage of articles rejected was 12.0%, 30.2%, 35.3%, and 39.3% respectively. In addition, repeated insistence on meeting a minimum required level of definition has improved the quality of the photographs.

This improvement in quality has been accompanied by an increase in the quantity of material. During 2009, the total number of pages (Figure 1) and of articles published (Figure 2) have both increased. The distribution of articles by section is shown in Figure 3.

4. Online manuscript submission and tracking

Online tracking of articles through the publication process began in 2009. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the Elsevier Editorial System, which allows authors, reviewers and the editorial board to track the progress of manuscripts through the Internet.

5. Inclusion of *Actas* on the websites of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV) and Elsevier

The websites of both AEDV and Elsevier have been updated, not only in terms of their appearance but in terms of content as well. Literature searches are now easier, and the number of hits received by the *Actas* web page has increased significantly.

6. Regional editions and AEDV working groups

The publication of special issues of the journal with summaries of the meetings held by regional chapters and working groups was interrupted in April 2005. The publication of special issues has resumed, and to date there are 3 containing summaries of the meetings of the regional chapters and AEDV working groups that asked to be included. Since then, summaries of all meetings have been included and the information updated. From now on, they will be published annually.

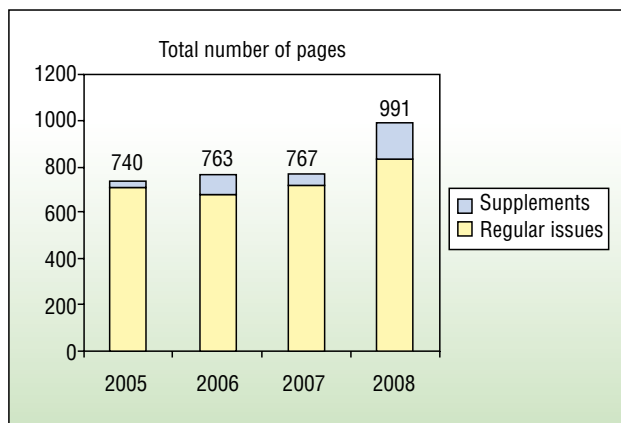


Figure 1 Total number of pages of scientific content, including regular and special issues, between 2005 and 2008.

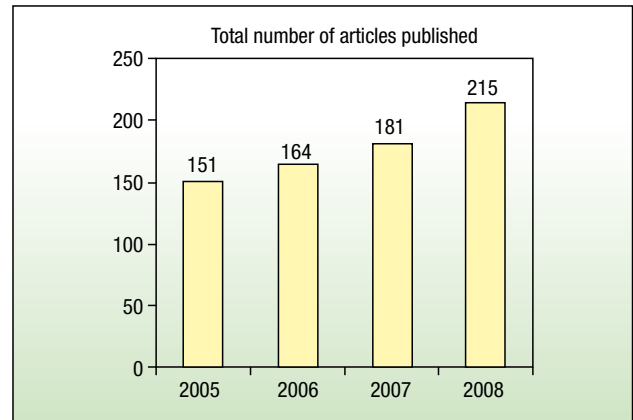


Figure 2 Total number of articles published between 2005 and 2008.

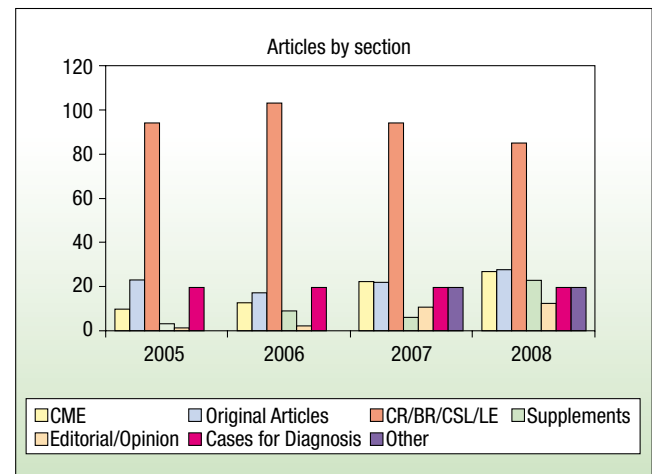


Figure 3 List of articles published by section between 2005 and 2008. BR: brief report; CR: case report; CSL: clinical science letter; LE: letter to the editor; CME: continuing medical education.

7. Other questions

Among other issues, it is worth noting that the free-access online English-language edition of *Actas* available through PubMed is fully operational, and the number of hits and downloads of .pdf files has increased dramatically. The journal's editorial board has been enlarged again. At present the editorial team of *Actas* consists of 123 persons: 5 are honorary members, 4 are on the editorial committee, 7 are section coordinators, 73 are members of the national editorial board, and 34 are members of the international editorial board. The *Actas*-Isdin prizes have remained at the same award levels. These include a prize for best original article (2750€) and a prize for best case report/clinical science letter (1500€). Advertising space on the AEDV website has been made available free of charge to a variety of nongovernmental organizations.

Pending Objectives

Although we are entitled to feel satisfied by what we were able to accomplish in the year 2009, the new year brings with it new challenges. Our optimism and energy will sustain our interest in continuing to improve our beloved *Actas*. Among the aims remaining to be achieved are the following:

1. Epub ahead of print

Unfortunately, the interval between acceptance of an article by the editorial committee and publication is fairly long. In order to minimize this delay in the communication of scientific knowledge, starting in January 2010 readers will be able to access articles scheduled for publication online, through PubMed. This required making some changes in the layout of the journal, but we believe that it was worth the trouble.

2. Impact factor

Achieving the much sought-after impact factor continues to be our priority. For our part, the effort to improve the quality of the journal not only continues undiminished, but increases daily. In October 2008 we applied for the inclusion of *Actas* in the Institute for Scientific Information database, and we await their reply. The impact factor simulations we have performed are very promising, but the Institute for Scientific Information has the final word.

3. Involvement of AEDV working groups and other groups in *Actas*

We would like *Actas* to be the medium of expression for AEDV working groups and for other research groups as

well. Toward that end we have created a new section, "Consensus Statements."

4. Other matters

We will redouble our efforts to raise the quality of the articles—the main aim of any scientific journal—, shorten review deadlines, improve access to the website, and facilitate content searches, especially for international users, who tend to encounter more difficulties.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed and continue to contribute to making every issue of *Actas* better than the one that preceded it: the authors, the editorial team and the peer reviewers, the Elsevier team, the pharmaceutical industry and others whose advertising is a source of revenue, and the members of AEDV. We would also like to apologize for any errors we may have made, however unintentionally. Making *Actas* a better journal is a collective task, and all readers should feel themselves to be part of it. We hope that 2010 will be a good and prosperous year for *Actas*.

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