

Centenary of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*

The year 1909 was a historic one for Spanish dermatology. At a politically turbulent time, with lots of changes under the government of the liberal Maura, D. Juan de Azúa and a few other physicians dedicated to skin diseases founded the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology. They also decided to leave a written record of their scientific activity, and so *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* was born. It was not the first Spanish dermatology journal as it was preceded by the *Revista Especial de Oftalmología, Dermatología, Sifilografía y Afecciones Urinarias*, published in Madrid under the tutelage of Alfredo R. Viforcós, between 1877 and 1891, and the *Revista Española de Dermatología y Sifilografía*, which was also published in Madrid from 1899 onwards by Luis Portillo and which survived for 30 years, although in 1914 the name was changed to *Revista Española de Urología y Dermatología*. Nevertheless, *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* was launched with a view to long-term survival, and right from the start, the journal served as a reflection of the level of scientific development of Spanish dermatology at the time.

A century has passed since it was founded, an important milestone by anyone's reckoning—more so if we note that the only interruption in its publication came during the first months of the Spanish Civil War (from June 1936 to October 1937). Over the years, *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* has provided a meeting place for the discussion of ideas, trends, and theories within Spanish dermatology. It is the oldest current monthly Spanish journal or, expressed with more pride, the senior member of Spanish medicine.

That I can celebrate this centenary as the president of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV) fills me with an indescribable feeling, somewhere between pride and admiration. When I look back, and read thousands of pages of unique articles, descriptions of exceptional cases, and so many reports of cutting-edge treatments, I feel the weight of the countless hours of work that have been put in by Spanish dermatologists and that

have contributed to the progress of our specialty. More than 1000 issues of the journal, several thousand articles, and almost a million pages of *Actas* have extolled the virtues of dermatology.

I would even go as far as to say that, if anything has been tended and cared for within the AEDV, it has been *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*. For as long as I can remember, all the Academy's presidents have treated the journal as its most valuable asset, and with great affection. I remember D. Antonio García Pérez, how he tended it; D. Miguel Armijo, how he proudly expanded the journal to Latin America; D. Francisco Camacho, how he reworked it; D. Luis Iglesias, how he promoted it; and D. José Luis Díaz Pérez, how he projected it on an international stage.

Our journal may well soon attain what we have been yearning: an impact factor. Such an achievement would no doubt be thanks to the effort of all those dermatologists who have published in the journal during its century of existence.

Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas is a solid testament to the great progress of Spanish dermatology. I am often at pains to point out that Spanish dermatology is currently one of the best in the world, and our journal has played an important part in this success: for many years, it has been the point of contact for many colleagues who wished to share their knowledge with other academics.

I believe the time has come to take a look back at our history to learn from our predecessors, reflect, and progress in step with the ideals on which *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* was founded. We will take full advantage of the opportunity granted us by the centenary to tend, improve, and enhance our journal still further.

Congratulations to all!

Julián Conejo-Mir Sánchez
President of the Spanish Academy
of Dermatology and Venereology