

CENTENARY EDITORIAL

Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas 1909-2009. The Legacy

Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas, initiated by our predecessors 100 years ago, is a great legacy to Spanish Dermatology. It is undoubtedly the greatest asset of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV) and, by extension, the dermatologist members of the body. But consolidating a scientific journal is no easy task. Becoming the doyen of monthly medical journals has required the hard work, dedication, and commitment of many people, in both the scientific and wider medicine-related arenas.

In the current climate, the global development of a publication such as *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* must combine various characteristics if it is to survive. Firstly, those responsible for AEDV must be committed to the continued role of our journal as a central point of reference for the scientific dermatology community. Secondly, dermatologists must want the publication to be the prime outlet for their research concerns. Thirdly, economic backing is needed to ensure sustainable distribution of the Journal, as the costs involved have exceeded contributions from AEDV members for some years.

Fortunately, as far as we can remember, those charged with running the AEDV have always shown this commitment, making enough of an impression on the board, editors, and directors of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* for the journal to be wielded as our main standard. But the monthly publication of the journal, at least while we were in charge, was by no means a bed of roses. We were handed a journal that was published periodically with some minor interruptions despite the best efforts of our predecessors. Our first intentions were to clear the backlog of issues, update the format in line with the modern concepts used in most dermatology journals, aim for clearly expressed content, produce correct English abstracts, and achieve uniform presentation and financial self-sufficiency. The support of many dermatologists provided us with sufficient original content to fill a monthly journal. Our publisher helped us to apply uniformity to our beloved

Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas, and over the ensuing years contributions grew from just over 200 originals to more than 400. But even before we had taken control of the journal we had vowed to raise its profile as high as our aspirations would allow us at the time: to be accepted by MEDLINE. The publisher drew up a series of measures that were absolutely essential if we were to achieve our objective. We had to maintain the advances achieved while adding others which were *a priori* difficult to achieve, like: publishing original articles from other countries, rejecting a minimum number of original articles, and improving details of design quality ranging from the type of paper to the images reproduced. However, we rose to the challenge and worked diligently to achieve all this, constantly aware of the unconditional support provided to us by the board, editorial committee, dermatologists, subscribers, publishers, advertisers, etc. After almost 3 years of adapting every issue of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* to MEDLINE requirements and of continual audit by the publishers, we were finally ready to submit ourselves to the rigorous selection process. Accordingly, we presented our request for membership of the considerable group of journals listed on Medline, and, a year later, we received the welcome news that we had been accepted. All of our efforts and those of our supporters had finally been rewarded.

This was a source of great satisfaction to us and all dermatologists, but we sincerely believe that this is just one step forward in the academic life of AEDV members, and that both current and future directors of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* must continue to strive for the journal to be ranked as highly as our aspirations can allow—a consideration any centenarian deserves.

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of Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*