

CENTENARY EDITORIAL

Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas 1994-1998

When the Board of Directors of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV) met on June 25, 1993 they decided the Presidency of the AEDV would voted on in the coming elections (Madrid June 9 to 11, 1994). At the time, the Editor in Chief and Assistant Editor of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* were Luis Iglesias and Francisco Vanaclocha, respectively. As the year progressed the names of their successors became increasingly clear: Evaristo Sánchez-Yus and Luis Requena for the two posts.

The first action taken by this editorial team with then publishers of the journal, Garsi, was to establish “recognition that both the title-page (cover design?) and name of the journal” were property of the AEDV. This meant the publisher could hire these from the institution, on the condition that the journal would “receive enough money from the publisher to pay for 10 review articles and to provide rewards for various tasks.” Shortly after this,

the contract with the publisher was reviewed: the July and August issues were separated-the latter covering summaries of presentations by the AEDV Regional Sections and Working Groups; the “Language and Dermatology” section appeared; the editorial committee was created-led by the President of the Academy and the Editorial Council; and the journal was distributed free to academics who were up to date with their payments, honorary academics and libraries, national and international centers, and journals with an exchange agreement. The January issue of 1995 presented the new *Actas* cover design (Figures 1 and 2).

From 1995 to 1997, the editorial team worked hard for the journal to enter the Citation Index, even though it was already available on Mednet. In order to achieve this, prizes were awarded for the best contributions, and also those published in international journals with an impact index where these cited references from *Actas*. Letters of recommendation were requested for Mrs Colaianni

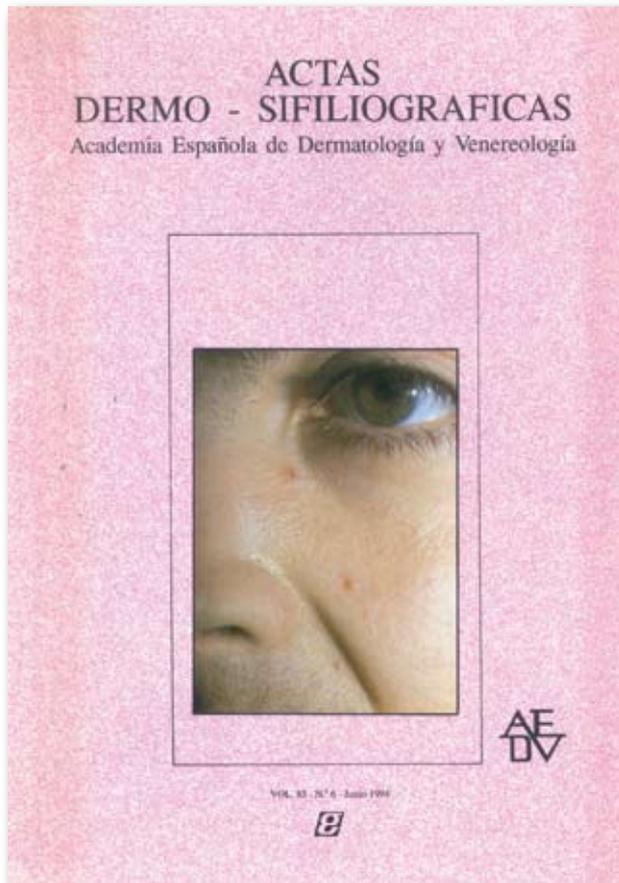


Figure 1. Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas cover to 1995.



Figure 2. Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas cover from 1995.

then Executive Editor of the *Index Medicus*—to support the *Actas* application for a Citation Index listing, and the AEDV appointed a Computer Science Committee made up of Drs Harto, Puig, Grimalt, and Buendía.

And in 1998, changes were made to the internal organization of the Journal and new entities created. These included: an Advisory Council made up of the AEDV President, General Secretary and Treasurer; an Editorial Committee, directed by Evaristo Sánchez Yus, with Luis Requena as editor in chief and Ignacio Querol Nasarre and María del Carmen Fariñas Sarabis appointed as new assistant editors; and an Editorial Council, with representatives from all the Territorial Sections. This first issue also carried the initial “Continuing dermatological education” section—in the style of the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD)—which provided a total of 30.5 points: 10 awarded for the Continuing Medical Education (CME) in *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*; another 10.5 for our National Congress and a further 10 for possible training activities (courses, symposia, meetings, etc) both national and international. In order to obtain these credits, CME responses to the “Review Section” of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* were passed on to Assistant Editor Ignacio Querol who was in charge of assigning the appropriate number of points once sufficient time had passed—a period we then defined as one calendar year or the equivalent 10 issues of *Actas*.

When I stood down from presidency of the AEDV at the May 12, 1998 General Assembly in Santander, the President’s Report I gave stressed 2 particular issues central to *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*: firstly, to keep pushing for entry to the Citation Index and CME, and, secondly, for the incoming Board of Directors to maintain the 2 issues as leading priorities on the AEDV agenda. Luis Iglesias Díez and his team achieved this with the reelection of Evaristo Sánchez Yus and Luis Requena as Director and Editor in Chief of the journal—both of whom did everything necessary for the journal to appear in the Citation Index. Also, although test responses to Reviews disappeared from *Actas* as of January 1999, the CME element was maintained—in fact it substituted the Reviews section during the first 4 years of their mandate, before finally disappearing in October 2002.

We continue to fight for our place in the Citation Index, with a recognized impact factor, and we keep pushing for our readers to cite *Actas* as much as possible (at least 1 citation per publication) when they publish in international journals that already have an impact factor. However, I continue to be concerned by the fact that CME disappeared from *Actas* less than a year after publication and is no longer monitored. Given that this article is largely about the history of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*, and the CME we introduced in our publication caused such controversy, I would like to recount some of the history

of an aspect of teaching that was included not simply as a matter of chance, but as the outcome of many hours of work by members of the *Actas* community.

In fact, in January 1994, Francisco Sánchez de Paz represented the AEDV at the meeting of the General Council of the Federation of the Spanish Scientific Medical Associations (FACME) in Madrid. From 1994 to 1998 our academic representatives were: Miguel Aizpún, Aurora Guerra, Antonio Harto and Ángel Simón. In his role as first Vice President of the AEDV, Dr Simón was appointed speaker of the FACME Board of Directors from December 1996. In those days FACME members included 37 of the 49 Scientific Medical Societies (SMS) offering medical resident intern (MIR) training. At the time, the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) President for dermatology was José María Giménez Camarasa and the speaker was Mario Lecha. This body was closely involved in the training of resident medical interns and had links with the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology—represented in the UEMS by Dr Gerda Frentz. So when a final document on CME for dermatology and venereology was produced April 4, 1997 we decided to participate as actively as possible.

It is important to remember that although the UEMS provided incentives for CME in European member states this was also about the time when the Instituto de Formación Médica Colegial (IFMC) disappeared. Hence, CME was immediately passed over to an Interterritorial Council constituted in the following manner: 2 representatives from the Education Ministry, another 2 from the Health Ministry, 1 from each of the 17 Autonomous Communities, 1 from the General Council of Spanish Medical Colleges (CGCOM), 1 from FACME, 1 from the Conference of Deans, and another for the National Council of Medical Specialties. But only the Ministries, Communities, and CGCOM had a vote. This perspective therefore means that accreditations for congresses or meetings are currently granted by the Autonomous Communities and that all the efforts made by *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* to obtain accreditation of the JAAD type have come to nothing.

As the person responsible for the *Actas* accreditation program—where Amaro García Díez and Aurora Guerra put many hours of work into the statutes and standards submitted to the AEDV board of directors for approval on January 16, 1998—I wish to apologize to all those academics who requested points and accreditation for their participation in AEDV training through *Actas* only to find they could be given no recognition. Nonetheless, with a few minor changes—related more to current economic and social modifications than the teaching potential of Academy—I will continue to lobby the Health Ministry, Education Ministry, Interministerial Commission, and CGCOM for the *Actas* training work to be completed. The

seed is already sown and prestigious journals, academic entities, are putting it into practice.

Addendum

Letter to the Editor of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*

To the Editor: Thank you. I have just seen issue number 2 of *Actas* and on the penultimate page I can see that you have obtained Continued Medical Education status for *Actas* from this year, granted by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and the CGCOM. This gives 14.8

credits, or the equivalent of 80 hours of training for 10 evaluations with 160 questions. Congratulations, and again, thank you in the name of all those who expended many hours of enthusiastic effort in trying to achieve Continued Medical Education status for our journal over more than 10 years. You have done it, and I sincerely hope your team will also achieve the long-awaited inclusion in the Citation Index.

Francisco M. Camacho-Martínez
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