

EDITORIAL

Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas: a New Stage

Dear readers,

As a new year begins, we continue to strive with renewed energy and enthusiasm to make *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* a better journal. To that end, we would like to inform you of some changes that will be taking place beginning with this issue, as well as some of the things we would like to see develop in future issues:

Change in Design

The design of the journal has been changed both inside and out to reflect this new phase and the new challenges the journal faces. The changes to the inside of the journal have been designed to make it easier and more attractive to read. We trust that this will be to the liking of most readers.

New Sections

Beyond these design changes, however, the editorial board's main concern is to improve the contents of the journal. To achieve this, we have maintained some of the old sections, while creating new ones. Beginning with this issue, *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* will include the following sections: Reviews, Opinion Articles, Practical Dermatology, Controversies in Dermatology, Consensus Documents, News, History, Original Articles, Case Reports, Cases for Diagnosis, Arts Corner, Olavide Museum, and Letters to the Editor. In addition, the following sections will appear sporadically: Dermatological Agenda, Book Reviews, and Obituaries. Our main objective is to increase content related to ongoing medical training and encourage dermatological debate. We invite all of you to participate in developing these areas. The characteristics of each section are specified in our instructions for authors.

Change in the Instructions for Authors

As a result of the above-mentioned section changes, we have had to make some changes in the instructions for authors, which have also been updated in accordance with those of the prestigious international journals. We have also tried to make the instructions easier to read and follow. In addition, we aim to facilitate the electronic submission of

manuscripts and the online follow-up of articles by both the author and reviewers. We request all those who submit articles for review that they adhere strictly to these instructions. Such adherence is currently a weak point.

Increase in the Number of Collaborators

There has been an increase in the number of collaborators on *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*. To the editorial board (for which the number of members is established in the bylaws of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology [AEDV]) has been added the figure of section coordinators, whose objective is to strengthen the areas they represent. We have tried to include representatives from the majority of autonomous communities and areas within dermatology. We still need to seek wider international collaboration to facilitate dissemination of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* abroad.

Improvement in the Quality of Articles

As we mentioned in our last editorial, improvement in the quality of articles is one of the main objectives of the current editorial team. We therefore encourage everyone to send manuscripts of the highest quality, which will have a potentially wide readership because the journal is listed in MEDLINE. We would like to increase the proportion of original articles at the expense of clinical reports, which sometimes contribute little more than another case to a list of more or less rare diseases, a different location, or a clinical characteristic of no great interest. We must ask you to be understanding if we reject some articles which, due to their content or to the fact that the journal's needs have been covered, cannot find a place in *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* at the current time.

Collaboration of Working Groups of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology

We would like to encourage members of AEDV Working Groups to publish their consensus documents, recommendations, or therapeutic guidelines in *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*. Our journal is the official publication of the academy and we would like it to be the place where its groups express themselves. The importance of this initiative has prompted us to include a new section.

Debates in Dermatology

Without doubt, new sections such as “Opinion Articles” and “Controversies in Dermatology” will provide opportunities for debate that we, the editorial team, would like to encourage in order to make *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* a lively and dynamic publication. The “Letters to the Editor” section is a good forum for holding such debate and we would also like to encourage everyone to participate in it.

Citing of Spanish-Language Dermatology Journals

We will never tire of emphasizing the need to include publications in Spanish for the benefit of our Spanish readership (from journals such as *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas*, *Medicina Cutánea*, and *Piel*) in the references. We therefore advise authors submitting articles for review to take into account the previous studies published in these Spanish-language journals, especially those articles published in the last 2 years. The reviewers of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* will be particularly diligent in this respect. It should be borne in mind that *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* is listed in MEDLINE but not in the Journal Citation Index, so it does not currently have an impact factor. It is up to us to see that this situation changes through citations in our own journals and in our publications in international journals.

Improving Abstracts of Articles Submitted for Review

At the current time, the knowledge that the non-Spanish-speaking international community has of the contents of our articles is based on the abstracts published in English in MEDLINE. These are our calling cards. For this reason, we request that the greatest care be taken in drafting abstracts. The reviewers of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* will make every effort to ensure that this is the case.

Suggestions

Our efforts are directed, of course, towards improving the quality of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* as much as possible. We consider your collaboration indispensable in identifying areas for improvement. To help us achieve this, please send any suggestions and criticisms you have to our e-mail addresses: directoractas@aedv.es (or estebandauden@medynet.com), redactoractas@aedv.es, dargilad@hotmail.com, jmcarrascosac@hotmail.com.

Finally, we would like to mention that we have some very attractive projects underway for the future and to remind you that your collaboration is essential for *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* to run smoothly. The journal will be what we want it to be. It is up to all of us.

The Editorial Board