

editorial

In the distance, the beginning of this Journal 25 years ago seems to be unique, but uncomplicated. I can imagine the situation of the first Editor, plenty of enthusiasm, an amateur staff, if any, no reviewers (what for?) and not a single paper to publish. Fortunately, those responsible for the birth of this infant had the wisdom to select doctor Lillian Haddock as first Editor of the Journal who established solid foundations for its future. She was followed by doctor Rafael Villavicencio, who came with the experience of having edited the “Boletín de la Asociación Médica de Puerto Rico” for several years. Thus, the survival and continuity of the Journal was assured. The hopes of those fathering the creature are still vibrant and looking for new paths.

Until this moment, it seems that former editorial board members, dedicated contributors, and interested readers have each contributed to the continuity of the Journal. Doctors Augusto Elías, Nelson Escobales, Cynthia Pérez and Carlos González Oppenheimer are the new Associate Editors, who together with a new Editorial Board will reflect in the changes in which we are placing our hopes.

The challenge imposed by the new technology obliges us to figure how to use it and the Internet to complement the written words and facilitate the flow of information. I will have more to say (and hope that you will participate actively) about the role of the Internet in the Journal in the future.

We hope that you will help us to identify the strengths and weakness of the Journal. Please tell us what changes you perceive are needed. Do it via paper or electronically (prhsj@rcm.upr.edu).

The direction of a Journal has to be a singular process, and an Editor may float aspirations and set standards for it, but a journal is dependent upon contributions to it. We expect the Journal to be judged by the quality and depth of its publications, and hopefully, by the ideas that you can detect within its lines. Every manuscript will be submitted to a peer review process. The editorial policy will be to select good material that will be interesting to readers. Sometimes, the Editor will accept for publication a manuscript that at first, have been recommended to rejection, or will reject a manuscript that has been recommended for publication. Those submissions develop the character and personality of the Journal. The editorial policy of the Puerto Rico Health Sciences Journal will be affirmed upon the proposition that it will be open to all members of the health sciences community who wish to advance the field by sharing new observations and ideas with colleagues, and who desire to comment and discuss about the field, not only in Puerto Rico but beyond. In that perspective, the Editorial Board agreed in its first meeting to recognize English as the language of the Journal. Letters to the Editor are welcome in this matter and in others. We seek material for publication that advances the perimeter of Medicine (Basic and Clinical Sciences), Pharmacy, Public Health, Oral Sciences, Education, Sciences allied to Health Professions, Molecular Biology and Behavioral Sciences. You will certainly see changes, because the alternatives, stagnation and complacency, are not acceptable. With these introductory lines, we begin with aspirations to make history from hopes.


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Editor-in-Chief