

The Journal Adicciones: Continuity and Innovation

Revista Adicciones: Continuidad e Innovación

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In June 2014 I was selected as Editor of the journal *Adicciones*, and accepted this exciting challenge for a period of three years. During this first half-year I have been able to fully familiarize myself with the journal and its objectives, as well as conceiving new opportunities for its growth and redefining the route map and editorial plan of action for the medium term.

Adicciones was founded in 1989 as an initiative of the Spanish Society for Scientific Studies on Alcohol, Alcoholism and other Drug Addictions (*Sociedad Científica Española de Estudios sobre el Alcohol, el Alcoholismo y las otras Toxicomanías, Sociodrogalcohol*), responding to a need to provide those members of the Spanish-speaking scientific community working in this area with an organ of scientific expression and a means of disseminating their research.

Over these last 25 years since *Adicciones* was first published, it is clear that the undertaking has not been in vain; moreover, the journal has been steadily improving on all levels, resulting in its indexation in all the principal national and international databases specializing in this field. Copies of the journal have been widely distributed, especially throughout the Spanish-speaking world, with paper or digital versions available across the whole of Latin America. Likewise, it has been possible to download it free of charge via the website: www.adicciones.es/. All the articles published are

original and have undergone an anonymous peer-review process.

As a result of the excellent content and sound functioning of the journal, it has been included in the Science Edition & Social Sciences Edition of Journal Citation Reports (JCR) since 2010 (Thomson Reuters, 2014), attaining at the last evaluation (2013) its highest impact factor to date (1.167).

Even though Engel's (1977) bio-psycho-social model is today fully accepted in the field of addictions, it can often be complex to apply in everyday clinical practice; likewise, it is difficult to develop appropriate hypotheses that integrate the different components of this model and their interactions.

Bearing in mind such difficulties, the editorial philosophy of *Adicciones* is and will continue to be one that considers substance-related and addictive disorders as a complex set of phenomena that can be influenced by multiple factors and interpreted from a wide variety of perspectives. In this regard, *Adicciones* covers cultural and sociological aspects that are often ignored or overlooked. Thus, one of my foremost objectives as Editor will be to maintain a multidisciplinary perspective which, as well as taking into account the aspects mentioned above, employs a clinical and therapeutic approach in the broadest sense; furthermore, it is my

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intention to increase the number of articles exploring more basic aspects of addictions. To this end, we aim to encourage contributions and collaboration from: i) research groups of relevance and prestige, such as those associated with the Carlos III Health Institute in Madrid (*Instituto de Salud Carlos III*), including the Addictive Disorders Network (*Red de Trastornos Adictivos, RTA*) and the Center for Biomedical Research in the Mental Health Network (*Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Salud Mental, CIBERSAM*); and ii) contributions from all relevant groups (psychiatry, clinical psychology, therapeutic communities, sociology, anthropology, methodology, psychobiology, genetics, neurobiology and pharmacology). Another crucial aspect for me will be a policy of expansion towards and dialogue with related and complementary disciplines.

An example of how these intentions are moving forward would be the recent restructuring of the Editorial Committee, among whose most notable features is an increase in the number of Associate Editors, providing invaluable competence and support for the Editor, and widening the participation of professionals devoted not only to clinical research in all its aspects – sociological, anthropological, etc. – but also to basic research and all branches of neuroscience, through the incorporation of professionals with backgrounds in psychobiology, genetics, pharmacology, and so on.

Similarly, both the Editorial Board and the Expert Committee have been enlarged and renewed, according to the above-mentioned guidelines and with the aim of ensuring continuity at a scientific level and regarding bibliometric, training-related and research impact, but all the time, as stressed above, trying to broaden our perspectives and working as closely as possible with complementary disciplines, the watchword being excellence at both the national and international levels.

Another objective for the coming three years is the improvement of the journal's IT platform, with a view to facilitating accessibility and navigation for all its possible users (readers, authors, reviewers, Editorial Board members, interested organizations, etc.).

We also aim to provide *Adicciones* with the corresponding DOI (Digital Object Identifier), so that each article has a specific number, constant over time and regardless of changes in its location, which any user can employ for finding the cited article on Internet (International DOI Foundation, 2012). This will allow us, moreover, to bring forward the online publication of articles once they are accepted, so that they reach their audience earlier and enjoy a longer exposure time for consultation and citation purposes. This can have a positive effect on the citation of innovative research reported in the journal.

Furthermore, from Volume 27 onwards we intend to publish all the articles simultaneously in Spanish and English, and this will undoubtedly lead to greater penetration and

increase the scientific and research-related impact of the material.

We also feel the need to take into account aspects of external and internal evaluation of the journal that help to provide a better idea of its functioning, progress and “health status”; to this end we shall use parameters of an objective nature such as, in the case of external evaluation, its impact factor or the monthly use statistics from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), and in that of internal evaluation, the number of hits on the journal's web pages, the record of accepted and rejected articles or the mean waiting times at the different stages of the editorial process.

All of the above will be achieved while striving to safeguard the sustainability of the journal and the necessary transparency in all activities, including those related to the journal itself and those affecting readers, authors, collaborators, Editorial Board members and proprietors. I shall endeavour to follow best practice (and of course, to avoid malpractice) at all times, respecting the guidelines and regulations of both the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, 2011) and the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE), to which I shall be applying for membership.

I cannot conclude this Editorial outlining my Strategic Plan of Action without acknowledging and giving thanks to all those – especially Drs. Calafat, Becoña and Bobes, leaders of the previous Editorial Committee and so many others (authors, collaborators, reviewers, members of the Editorial Committee) – who in this quarter of a century of *Adicciones* have made and continue to make such valuable contributions, the vast majority of them with great enthusiasm, enabling the journal to occupy its rightful place as a source of pride for all Spanish-speaking professionals involved or simply interested in this important research area.

Finally, it only remains for me to beg your understanding for any mistakes that may occur in these times of transition, at the same time requesting your collaboration, suggestions and help from any field and perspective, always with a view to improving the final product. Meanwhile, I would like to express my gratitude to all the readers of *Adicciones* for the trust placed in my editorial efforts and to encourage all researchers to send us their manuscripts and proposals.

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