

EDITORIAL

Editors' corner: *Anales de Pediatría* annual report[☆]



El espacio de los editores: anuario de *Anales de Pediatría*

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Coinciding with the AEP National Congress, and for the second year running,^{1,2} the Editorial Committee reports on the changes that have taken place and the results *Anales de Pediatría* has achieved, as well as the issues to be tackled in the immediate future.

Anales de Pediatría is still the only Spanish paediatric with a recognised international impact factor and one of the only two indexed in the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (the other being *Cirugía Pediátrica*). *Anales* is the most important paediatric scientific journal published in Spanish. We believe that its pre-eminent position, which is undoubtedly due to the hard work and persistence of all the Editorial Committees that have preceded us, has been strengthened in the last few years by two crucial factors: improvement in manuscript turnaround times and bilingual publication in English.

Processing of manuscripts

The number of manuscripts received in 2015 was 706, consisting of 281 original articles (40%), 170 scientific letters (24%), 15 editorials (2%), 21 special articles (3%), 16 AEP articles (2%), 53 letters to the editor (8%) and 150 images

in paediatrics (21%). The acceptance rate was 38%, which represents a decrease compared with 44% in 2014.

Average times from receipt to first decision were as follows: 1.7 days from receipt of the manuscript to assignment to the editor (administrative handling time), 4.1 days from receipt of the article by the editor to sending for peer review (editorial handling time) and 9.8 days for peer review plus editors' decision (evaluation time). As we can see, the average overall time for evaluating a manuscript in 2015 was 18.4 days (Fig. 1). This was due to the enthusiasm, effort and quality of work of our peer reviewers, who have constantly supported the journal and the Editorial Committee.

The time from acceptance to publication "ahead of print", which means being indexed in the PubMed database and available for citation, is 7.4 weeks, a week less than in 2014. This represents a general reduction in manuscript handling times, even though there is room for improvement in the time between acceptance and inclusion in an issue, which is still 34.9 weeks.

Bilingual publication

Bilingual publication applies to original articles, scientific letters, editorials, special articles and AEP position papers. It was introduced in June 2014, and since January 2016 the English edition is now published simultaneously with the version in Spanish. In the first year of bilingual publication there were 1,636,468 visits to the analesdepediatria.org website, 119,462 (7%) of which consulted the English version. These data are reinforced by those obtained through ScienceDirect, where a total of 654,416 visits were recorded, with

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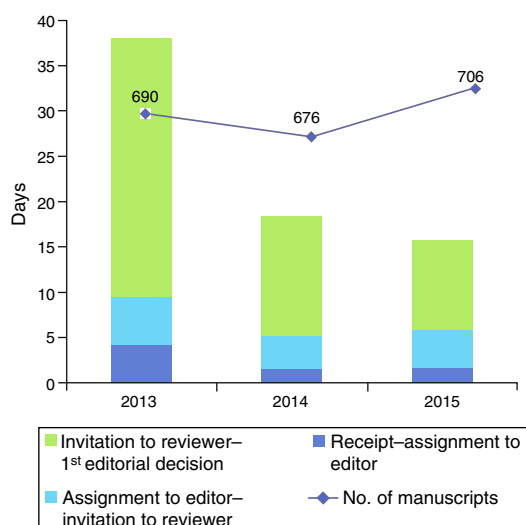


Figure 1 Editorial processing times in the last three years. Progression of the number of manuscripts received.

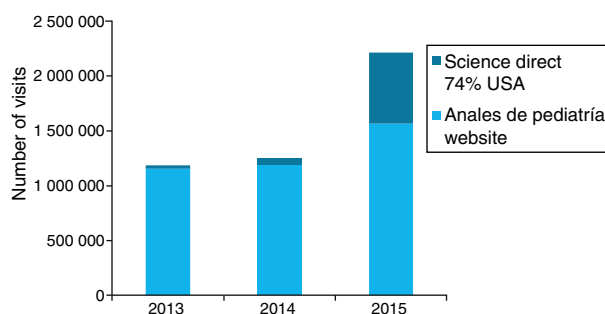


Figure 2 Visibility of *Anales de Pediatría*. Progression of the number of visits to ScienceDirect and to the *Anales de Pediatría* website.

most of them coming from the United States (486,779, representing 74% of the total). This change is important in quantitative terms, but even more so from the qualitative point of view, with respect to the obvious visibility *Anales de Pediatría* has gained internationally. The progress of these data in the last three years is shown in Fig. 2.

Publishing the journal in English is bound to increase its international reach and consequently improve the bibliometric data, although it is not expected that this trend will occur immediately. The very process of calculating the various impact factors means that it will be two or three years before its repercussions can be evaluated.

New developments

Gender perspective

The existence of gender differences in Spanish research, and therefore in Spanish academic publication, is an undeniable reality. Although such differences are smaller in biomedical sciences than in other fields of knowledge, that does not mean that we should feel satisfied and forget our responsibility in this area. Our journal, the official scientific organ of Spanish paediatricians, has gender balance on its Editorial

Committee; of the 4 members of that Committee, half are women. Moreover, it is important to note that since June 2015 the proportion of women on the new Editorial Board has increased from 5% to 24%. In the same spirit, the time has come for our journal, from this June issue, to join those that already include authors' names in full, without using initials.

Change of rules for AEP manuscripts

The AEP has established a publication policy for documents representing the Association's official position. This policy, introduced in January 2016, is as follows: "This section only publishes manuscripts prepared by the various committees and working groups of the Asociación Española de Pediatría and specialist scientific societies, in response to a prior request from the association's Executive Committee. These articles will represent the AEP's official stance on various issues chosen in line with the association's editorial policy."

Awards

The number of awards granted by the AEP in connection with the journal has been increased this year. As well as the Jerónimo Soriano Award, the Juan Rodríguez Soriano Award is being presented for the first time. The latter honours the research career of our beloved teacher, the wide readership of his work and the large number of citations it has received, as well as his tenure as Editor-in-Chief of *Anales de Pediatría* from 1995 to 2000. Both awards recognise the excellence of the articles selected and will be presented at the Opening Ceremony of the AEP Congress.

The Jerónimo Soriano Award is granted to what is considered to be the best original article published in the journal each year. It is selected by a jury that includes, among others, the three peer reviewers who have most often collaborated with *Anales* during the year. The winner in 2016 is the Original Article by Vilà de Muga et al. entitled "Impact on the improvement of paediatric emergency services using a standardised model for the declaration and analysis of incidents".³

The Juan Rodríguez Soriano Award, created to recognise the article with most citations for the impact factor in 2015, goes to the Original Article by García-Muñoz Rodrigo et al. entitled "Hypothermia risk factors in the very low weight newborn and associated morbidity and mortality in a neonatal care unit".⁴

Peer reviewers

The Editorial Committee of *Anales* acknowledges and expresses its gratitude for the efforts of its peer reviewers, since their constant, selfless collaboration is crucial to the editorial process. The total number of reviewers invited in 2014 and 2015 was 655, and in all they received 1998 invitations, of which 84% were answered within the established time limit. The reviewers who have contributed their work in 2015 are listed in this issue.

New prospects

Open-access

Recently the AEP and Elsevier have come to an agreement to adopt the open access model (CC By-NC-ND) for our journal. As a result of business changes in the publishing field the AEP had to choose between this model and subscription, which would limit readership to paid-for collections as the form of distribution of the journal for the next few years. It finally decided on the open access option, which enables it to continue offering *Anales* free of charge to the scientific community and also makes it possible for the authors of research funded with public money to self-archive their work in a repository in fulfilment of open-access mandates, including that laid down in Article 37 of the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation Act.⁵

Editorial collaboration networks

An area of potential expansion for *Anales* is the Ibero-American paediatric community, given the links that have existed for years and the facility afforded by sharing a common language. With the aim of increasing collaboration, a network is to be established immediately by the editors of

the journals of the Ibero-American paediatric societies. The Editorial Committee of *Anales* will be initially responsible for coordinating this network. The Committee will implement policies enabling progress to be made in disseminating scientific content and organising collaborative actions supported by new communication technologies.

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