

Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa: the future is digital

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Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa (ARP) has been one of the scientific pillars of our society and specialty, since its creation in 1973, it had a remarkable progression due the commitment of the Portuguese rheumatologists, specially the chief editors.

In 1974 Professor Barceló, at the time president of the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR) noted in an article that: “the achievements seemed natural and logical (including the ARP), however they are not product of improvisation, characteristic of Latin people, but they translate a fertile ground made possible by sustainable work and tenacity of a small number of young pioneers of Portuguese rheumatologists”¹. So, in 1974 someone outside Sociedade Portuguesa de Reumatologia (SPR) could define the DNA that to this moment still characterize us; pioneering, work, planning and tenacity.

And we were pioneers in ARP achieving the Medline indexation, the impact factor and managing to do so with less than 200 specialists and maintaining full internal control of our magazine with quality and scientific integrity.

However, since the late 90s and early years of this millennium, despite an increasing impact factor achieving its highest level (1.105) in 2017 (Figure 1), specialists and residents might tend to consider publication in our own magazine not good enough. The pride and joy of being published in ARP is a little diminished despite being the second national medical journal with the highest impact factor (Table I). Adding to this a clear and progressive loss of publicity from our natural sponsors, common to most magazines, has been pressuring our society to find new ways to our ARP.

So, it is time to plan and to invest in order to support ARP but also to engage all of the Portuguese Rheumatologists and residents in our project. The first

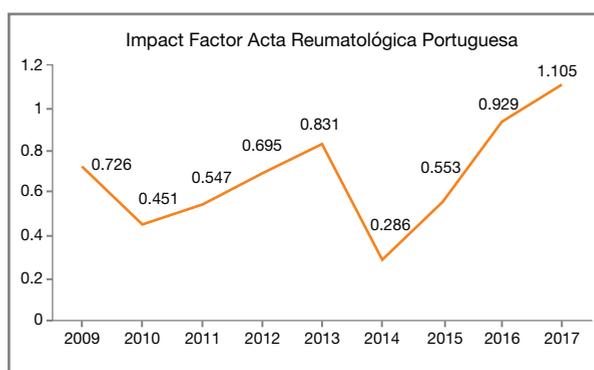


FIGURE 1. Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa impact factor evolution since its first attribution in 2007

TABLE I. PORTUGUESE MEDICAL JOURNALS 2017 IMPACT FACTORS PUBLISHED BY JOURNAL CITATION REPORTS IN 2018

Medical Journal	Impact Factor 2017
Revista Portuguesa Pneumologia (Pulmonology)	1,731
Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa	1,105
Revista Portuguesa Cardiologia	0,827
Acta Médica Portuguesa	0,581

decision, supported by an inquiry to all, is to change our magazine to an almost exclusive digital/online format starting in 2018, adding more quality and possibilities but also lowering costs and carbon impact.

There is however a second and more decisive discussion to be made, how can we involve all of the Portuguese Rheumatologists in this journey towards better international recognition of ARP. In my view we have to start by connecting SPR projects and focusing them in the publication of the best quality projects in ARP.

To the directive board of SPR our magazine is a

1. Rheumatologist, President of Sociedade Portuguesa de Reumatologia

strategic element that has to be supported and further developed. A new website, new features of ARP are being developed but a global discussion has to be made to respond to several questions: How can we further increase in a sustained manner the impact factor? How can we incorporate and value papers from ARP in PhD research? How to improve the connection between ARP and our national registry Reuma.pt? How to integrate the SPR working commissions, their guidelines and ARP? How to put ARP in the international agenda?

There are no straight answers so we have to maintain the focus in our consistent work and tenacity that brought us this far and plan together a brighter future

not only for ARP but for all our strategic organization.

For ARP, one of our crown jewels, the future starts now in a digital way.

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