

# Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa: perspectives in 2017

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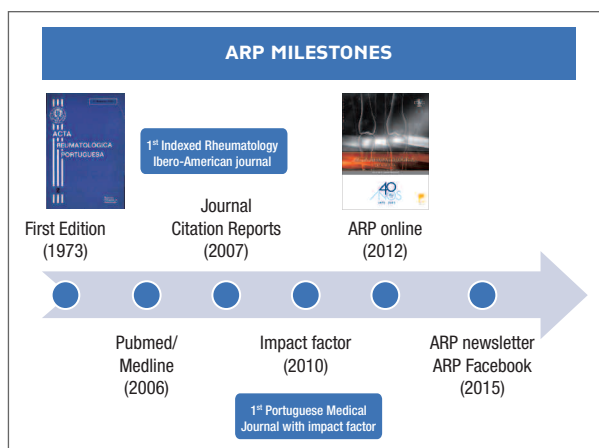
Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa (ARP) is the official scientific organ of the Portuguese Society of Rheumatology. The first publication dates from 1973 with a total of 42 volumes published thereafter. Throughout the years ARP has been a reference for many national and international authors. The careful editorial line, based in a peer-reviewed process aimed at high standards of scientific dissemination and education, allowed ARP to be indexed to Pubmed/Medline in 2006 and to the Science Citation Index (SCI) in 2009. ARP was the first Ibero-American rheumatology journal to be indexed and the first Portuguese medical journal to receive an impact factor<sup>1</sup>. This persistent effort led ARP to receive its highest impact factor (0.929) in 2017, an increase of 0,643 in the last two years (impact factor of 0.286 in 2015). Reflecting the general increase in scientific publications in the medical field, an increment in the number of submitted articles was observed in the last few years (average around 250-300/year), which was associated with an increase in the rejection rates of the journal (nowadays of 80%). Since 2012, ARP has a dedicated website ([www.actareumatologica.pt](http://www.actareumatologica.pt)) which allows the full online submission and peer-review processes and contains the digital archive of all published editions. In November 2015, ARP joined the social net-

working and its editions can now be accessed through its Facebook page, as well as its newsletter, sent to all Portuguese rheumatologists to improve accessibility (Figure 1).

Aiming to pursue its editorial strategies also in line with the reader's expectations, and in order to understand the current interests and perspectives of the Portuguese rheumatology community with regard to ARP journal, a dedicated online survey was performed. A 12-item online questionnaire was developed, to understand the Portuguese rheumatologists' preferences and frequency for consulting ARP articles, both in its printed and digital versions, as well as, the main reasons for accessing the ARP website. Moreover, rheumatologists' preferences for receiving ARP editions (printed or digital) and regarding the type of published articles were also explored. The questionnaire was sent by email to all Portuguese rheumatologists registered in the Portuguese Society of Rheumatology. A total number of 100 rheumatologists replied to this survey, representing 45% of all registered members (220). Considering the available printed and online versions of ARP, 45% of responders consulted both versions, while 31% exclusively accessed the online version. Most of the respondents (77%) reported reading some of the

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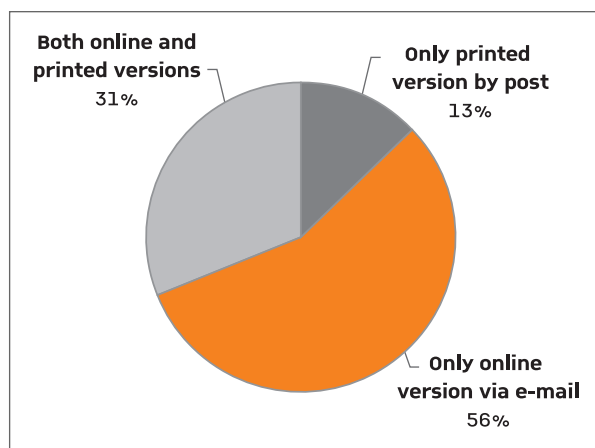
**FIGURE 1.** ARP milestones

ARP online articles, while 58% reported reading some articles of the printed version. A higher percentage of rheumatologists never consulted the printed version (22%) in comparison with those that never consulted the online version (9%). In what concerns the frequency of accessing printed and online ARP versions, 37% and 36% referred doing it occasionally, and 27% and 34% monthly, respectively.

Regarding the most relevant type of articles published in ARP, the review, clinical practice and images in Rheumatology articles were those considered to be of highest interest (means of 3.8, 3.7 and 3.7, respectively, in a 1 to 5 numerical rating scale) followed by clinical cases (3.5), original articles (3.5), editorials (3.4) and letters to the Editor (3.2). Accessing the ARP web site was mainly motivated by the search of a specific article (71%) or an update of the published literature (62%), while 43% accessed the ARP web site as reviewers and 31% as submitting authors. The majority of the rheumatologists expressed their preference for receiving the digital version of ARP by e-mail (56%), while 13% still prefer the printed version and 31% would like to receive both (Figure 2).

This questionnaire allowed to understand that the online version of ARP is being regularly accessed by Portuguese rheumatologists and is a well-accepted dissemination tool. Among the different types of articles, the reviews, clinical practice and images in Rheumatology articles are those considered of highest interest.

The current objective of ARP is to continue to improve the quality of its publications, stimulating the submission of innovative and high quality national and



**FIGURE 2.** How do you prefer to receive ARP contents?

international articles. ARP should also be instrumental to support the strategy of the Portuguese Society of Rheumatology, whose aims include the improvement of the quality of the scientific work and research conducted by its members, favoring its credibility and visibility.

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