

The Journey of a Thousand Miles

Jornada de Mil Milhas

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More than a year has passed since we have launched Lusíadas Scientific Journal right in the middle of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. At that time, we recognized that it would be a risky challenge.¹ In the beginning of this health crisis, healthcare professionals in the frontline were devoting their time to treat COVID-19 patients leaving behind all non-essential activities in which it was included clinical investigation and scientific publication. Medical journals faced not only a decrease in article submissions, but also in the number of reviewers available for peer review. As soon as pandemic control was being achieved with consequent decrease of healthcare services pressure, it became urgent to disseminate and share experience and scientific knowledge in COVID-19 field in a fast way. An overwhelming increased number of publications related to SARS-CoV-2 infection was observed in both national and international scientific panorama.² Bringing a journal to light in this context was an expected demanding and difficult assignment. Despite this, to give authors a chance of free open access publishing in a journal that is highly committed to ensure a rigorous and fast editorial and peer review processes, seemed to us as a good opportunity. For this reason, one of the first numbers of this journal was entirely dedicated to COVID-19.

The mission of Lusíadas Scientific Journal is to provide physicians and other healthcare professionals with the best research and information at the intersection of biomedical science and clinical practice and to present this information in understandable and clinically useful formats that influence healthcare delivery and improve patient outcomes. We strive to publish articles that are exciting to read, educate and inform readers with the most up-to-date research, and lead to positive changes in healthcare systems and in the way patient care is delivered.

To fulfill our goals and mission, we have outlined a strategy based on 3 main areas: i) editorial board, ii) editorial policies, iii) indexation.

We have invited distinguished national and international members for the Editorial Board, whose acceptance greatly honors us. We follow the ICMJE adoption of the World Association of Medical Editors definition of editorial freedom, assuring a total independence of the editorial processes from the healthcare group that owns the journal.

Regarding editorial policies, we took the important decision of publishing articles preferably in English, to ensure that authors can be read and cited internationally. Manuscripts submitted for publication should be prepared in accordance with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and we also ask that all manuscripts be written in accordance with the appropriate reporting guideline, available in the website of the Equator Network. We offer the opportunity to submit a range of article types, each with different requirements. To be accepted, articles undergo a rigorous blind review process, a procedure that protects the impartiality of the article selection. We are continuously developing all efforts to identify motivated and competent reviewers to guarantee a high-quality peer review process. Although we have a fast editorial procedure from submission to publication, we also have defined a fast-track system for urgent and important manuscripts that meet journal requirements for expedited review and publication. The journal follows the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), showing a respectful commitment to high standards of ethics and integrity in clinical investigation

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and publication. All articles in the Lusíadas Scientific Journal are published with open access, therefore the journal fulfils the requirements of the Portuguese funding agency (FCT) and other European funding bodies.

Indexing a journal is considered a reflection of its quality and a way of improving visibility and accessibility. Although we are already indexed to IndexRMP and RCAAP - *Repositórios Científicos de Acesso Aberto de Portugal* we crave for more for our journal. We are striving for further indexations in a short term, in international bibliographic databases, namely to DOAJ, Scielo, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and MEDLINE. To achieve indexation in these international databases we need to demonstrate that there is sufficient diversity between the editorial board and the authorship of articles. Hence, to obtain diversity we also want to raise awareness to the journal, by promoting the best articles using social media like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, blogs, academic network sites, etc.

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” (Lao Tzu). In scientific publication it represents a particularly laborious and demanding work, to which we are truly committed. We hope the future allow Lusíadas Scientific Journal to fulfill authors’ highest expectations.

Responsabilidades Éticas

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