



Journal of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río: current behavior and perspectives

Revista de Ciencias Médicas de Pinar del Río: comportamiento actual y perspectivas

Jadier Wong-Silva ¹  

¹University of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río. Medical-Surgical Research Center of Cuba.

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Dear readers:

Journal of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río It began to be published in print in 1986, then its digital version was created in 1997 and it remains that way to this day. One of the elements that has stood out since its beginnings is its periodicity, which is improved every year without creating editorial gaps, an issue that is guaranteed by the interest of the scientific community to publish in it since its foundation.

In 2023, a new work strategy was created, determined by the renewed management of the journal and the Provincial Center for Medical Sciences Information of Pinar del Río, with the intention of revitalizing and updating all aspects related to the editorial operation, as well as increasing its visibility, credibility and impact, in the scientific community not only in Cuba but also outside of it.

The presence of scientific journals in the world is increasing, and at the same time, a large number of researchers from all sciences estimate to leave the results of their studies in articles published on websites that guarantee the widest possible reach. Hence, competitiveness grows, although the term may seem out of context when it comes to science or open access (Open Access), only in Cuba there are more than 60 medical journals and the vitality of a site dedicated to publishing scientific research depends on multiple factors, including being competent, increasing the impact, to continue being a valid option.

Many might understand that the "impact of a journal" is measured by the publication of studies whose results provide solutions or propose solutions to specific problems in society, by the image or logos of its website, by the style of editing or layout of the published articles, even by the speed of the editorial process or the number of published works. And yes, they influence, but they do not determine, and the real impact of a journal goes beyond this group of elements.

The impact of a journal is given first of all by the h index, a relational measure between the number of articles published by a journal and the citations they receive. For example: if a journal publishes many articles and, in contrast, receives few or no citations, it may imply little scientific utility in them or a low reach of the journal within the scientific community.

The primary intention of an author when publishing a scientific article must be that his or her article is widely read for the quality of its content and, consequently, cited, because this gives importance to the research, the researcher and the journal where it appears.

From all of the above, it can be inferred ipso facto about a scientific journal that: it must be rigorous with its editorial processes, a greater number of articles published or in process is not directly proportional to scientific or editorial quality, it must grow within its natural ecosystem and for this, appearing indexed in internationally recognized databases is vital.

The Journal of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río, in the period 2023-2024, has entered four new databases, nine indexes and four repositories of renowned universities, although the result of the evaluation by Redalyc and Biblat based in Mexico and Dialnet in Spain remains to be known. The editorial process is currently shorter, 20 days for review and 50 days for editing, even guaranteeing those in less than five days the articles are assigned for review by experts.

The anti-plagiarism policy recognizes up to 20 % of coincidences with the content of other articles; a higher percentage can be considered plagiarism, for which we work with two recognized anti-plagiarism systems: StrikePlagiarism and Turnitin. The English interface already has the Publication Standards translated into that language. At this moment, we are working on international visibility for the official website of the Provincial Center for Medical Sciences Information of Pinar del Río, our publishing house, as it facilitates the application processes with large databases that begin the evaluation by making contact through that means.

The Journal of Medical Sciences of Pinar del Río expects to close 2024 as the year of the best statistics in its history, with figures that would exceed 400,000 downloads and 300,000 views. Our team is committed to continuing to invest in quality in the publication of medical research from the province, Cuba and the world.