
The new look of EMERGENCIAS

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EMERGENCIAS Editorial Committee.

The twentieth volume of EMERGENCIAS starts here. The Editorial Committee has decided this is a good moment to renew some aspects of the Journal. The most evident outcome of this renovation can be seen on the front cover. Without being a key point, the front cover says much about a journal. EMERGENCIAS's front cover has evolved significantly since the first issues, number 0 and number 1, were published during the spring and the summer of 1988 (Figure 1). After these first issues, in 1989, the look of the journal was settled with a heading on the lower side and a photograph on the upper side. This front cover design was kept until the beginning of 1992 when, coinciding with a change in the editorial team¹, a new look was found by members and readers. This kept the same heading design, which was placed on the upper side of the front cover, and the picture was replaced by a list with the contents of the Journal. The decision about this last feature must undoubtedly be considered as very appropriate, especially if we take into account that this has been applied to most scientific journals. Three years later, coinciding with the change in the Editorial Committee^{2,3}, in the first issue of 1995 there was an evolution towards a more frequent use of the colour white and the logo of the society became larger. It kept the list of contents on the front cover, which was probably a way for the Editorial Committee to vindicate the role of our specialty in the production of scientific publications. In 1999, EMERGENCIAS underwent its last transformation and acquired the look that has been maintained until the last issue. The change, applied by the team in charge at that

time, managed by the then Editor in Chief Manuel Moya Mir⁴, must undoubtedly be regarded as very wise. The long career developed by Manuel Moya Mir at this post has made that look of the Journal a part of the historical memory of EMERGENCIAS. The characteristics that defined that front cover and that remained practically unchanged were a logo with a more symbolic design, the combination of navy blue and orange with the list of contents inserted between them, and the heading. Figure 2 shows, in a rather nostalgic note, a sample of those four designs.

Designing a new front cover is a difficult task when the possibilities are literally unlimited. Evolution or revolution? This was the first decision to make. As can be seen, we have been absolutely eclectic. We have kept the colour blue, as it has always come with EMERGENCIAS. We have kept the list of contents but we have added the names of the authors. The SEMES logo is on top of the heading as the society promotes, owns and protects the Journal. However, we have replaced the typography of the heading to present it clearly like the name of the Journal and as a new feature we have included the conclusions section of one of the articles in the issue. All in all, decisions considering simplicity and clarity have been made.

We would have contributed very little (if anything) to improve EMERGENCIAS if changes had been limited to the front cover. The external appearance is just a foretaste of the contents, which have also been thoroughly modified. We used the same defining lines as those of the front cover: simplicity and clarity. Therefore, typography has been replaced in all sections of the journal, by an

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Figure 1. Front covers of issue 0 (left) and 1 (right) of EMERGENCIAS.

other that is more up-to-date and larger than previously. The space that might have been lost by doing this has been recovered by enlarging the part of the page that is used and leaving fewer blank margins. For the works published in the now classic sections of Original articles, Editorials, Reviews, Consensus document, Special article, Point of view, Clinical note and Images, the name of the authors are now presented in all of them, in the heading of the article including full names, thereby enabling readers to know if the author is a man or a woman) and the surnames are written in capital letters (enabling readers to identify them and making it easier for those who are not familiar with Latin onomastics). The Abstract - required in all sections except Editorial, Point of view and Images - which is very often the only part that readers who are not particularly interested in a specific subject go through, has gained protagonism, acquiring a size that enables easy reading and comprehension. Therefore the translated Abstract (into English) is placed at the end

of the paper, as it is seldom read in the printed version of the journal and this way we meet the requirements of the different assessment institutions. The specific citation of the paper appears at the end of both abstracts. It is very important that this is accurate in order to be correctly found and identified by the main bibliometric tools. In the heading of the article we also now specify a declaration of conflict of interests even when they do not exist. Tables have been simplified and we have avoided boxes and shadings that may make reading more difficult. Moreover, figures have lost their usual box and in order to gain uniformity, they will be partially (letters and numbers) or totally re-drawn. The appearance of figures is core to the physiognomy that is later perceived of a scientific article. They must have a size that is large enough to be completely readable and they must be preferably drawn following certain uniformity criteria. However, the colour in them is rarely essential (white, black and grey are enough in most cases) and colour entails an increase in costs that can be saved. Finally, the section Letters to the Editor has also been redesigned to underline the importance of the clinical case presented, distinguishing it from the rest of the text in the letter.

Besides the formal changes described above, the Editorial Committee has found it appropriate to introduce other more profound changes. In some cases, the hypothesis supporting a scientific study is unique and a simple design is required for its demonstration. The result is a short work, with few tables or figures, but that should not prevent it from achieving the status it deserves. Following the example of other journals in our environment, we have introduced the section Short Original Articles for this type of papers. Apart

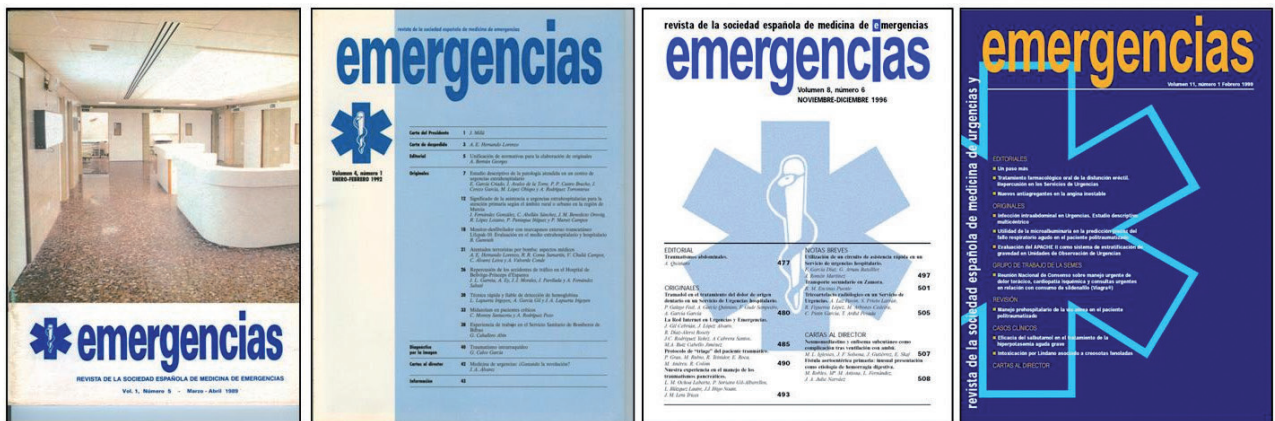


Figure 2. Evolution of different front cover designs of EMERGENCIAS from January 1989 (left) to December 2007 (right).

from this, we understand that the current culture of cross-cooperation in research is contributing to the progressive increase in the number of authors on research teams. Therefore, when it is necessary, papers published in the sections Original articles and Short original articles can be signed by more than six authors. On the other hand, we want to dedicate the section of Clinical Notes to publishing all those papers that most editors see as clinical notes: descriptive studies, with virtually no inferential statistics and present an extensive series of clinical cases that lead to conclusions that can be relevant to everyday practice. Exceptionally, we publish a review together with one or two cases in the section of Clinical Notes, unless the presentation of the cases comes with a more thorough study of a certain aspect, which is in general, epidemiological, biochemical or genetic. Besides, we must take into account that the Clinical notes count as "quotable articles" for the calculation of different bibliometric parameters including the impact factor and therefore, the publication of these articles that receive a much lower number of quotations than original articles or reviews, must be limited to those that strictly meet these requirements⁵. The EMERGENCIAS Editorial Committee will apply this principle as well and will redirect those articles of clinical cases that do not adjust to the profile of Clinical Notes to the section Letters to the Editor. In this sense, the section Images deserves a redefinition to go back to the principles supporting it: the publication of images that are highly illustrative by themselves. This section requires "more image" (very descriptive) and "less text" (the essential) and the references are irrelevant. Very frequently, radiological images are included in this section as the relevant image. We think that these clinical cases could also be redirected to the section of Letters to Editor without losing any information or even gaining some. In any case, one page should be enough to present the image and optimise the space available in the Journal. Undoubtedly, with all these changes the section Letters to the Editor will increase considerably (and deservedly) its weight in the global structure of EMERGENCIAS.

Many other aspects commented so far are now reflected in the new Rules for Publication (Normas de Publicación) that appear at the end of this issue and that are also available in <http://www.semes.org/emergencias/autores.htm>. These regulations will appear in every issue during this year and then in the first issue of each volume in the following years. We would be very thankful to authors if they would read the regula-

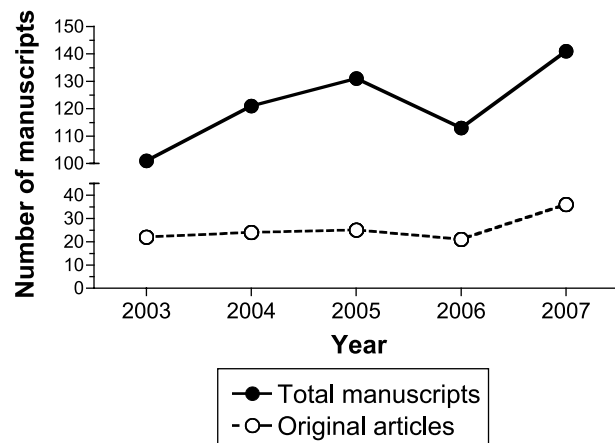


Figure 3. Evolution of manuscripts received in EMERGENCIAS from 2003 to 2007.

tions carefully before sending their papers to the editorial so that they can adapt to the changes in them and make administrative tasks easier.

EMERGENCIAS has become larger as it has been well fed by the researchers that send us their papers. This Editorial is not the right place to go deeper into the causes for the increase in the number of papers received by EMERGENCIAS. We want to believe that the enthusiasm put in the EMERGER project launched 1 year ago from these same pages has had something to do with it^{6,7}. In any case, the increase has been spectacular with a total number of 141 manuscripts received during 2007 (25% higher than that received in 2006 and 21% higher than the average number of papers received from 2003 to 2006) of which 38 were original papers (these have increased 71% and 57%, respectively) (Figure 3). This rise in research activity in recent years⁸, together with the number of articles already accepted for publication in EMERGENCIAS, have lead SEMES to negotiate a larger slot for scientific material and the assignation of this space on a regular basis with the SANED publishing house. This slot will have 74 pages in 2007, which will result in volume 20 having 444 pages and entails a 25% increase in relation to the total of 354 pages in volume 19.

We would like to thank the SEMES National Board and SANED for their efforts and trust to continue our progress in the EMERGER project. Research in Emergency Medicine has increased significantly in recent years^{9,10} and this improvement in the slot should be enough to include the most important research to take place in the following years.

However, all these changes in the printed version are not the only modifications. Possibly, members of SEMES will have received - as will

happen from now on – an e-mail including the contents of this issue, number 1 of volume 20 of EMERGENCIAS. This e-mail will be sent at the same time that the contents of the EMERGENCIAS website are available. This will take place a few days before the printed version reaches the members' mailboxes. Moreover, this website has been enhanced with the inclusion of a tool that enables searching EMERGENCIAS articles easily by author, key words, or contents of abstract. After an important effort converting EMERGENCIAS files to pdf, all EMERGENCIAS archives since 1997 are now available. Besides, the website will be redesigned shortly to host a bilingual electronic edition of the journal in Spanish and English. The translation is indeed a long pursued goal by the journal management. We all know this could potentially increase the citation rate of the articles by non-Spanish speakers which could reach its zenith the moment the journal is part of Medline. The translations will probably be available in a couple of months and will be retroactive, initially comprehending the issues published from 2007 onwards. Again, the determination of SEMES of not setting any limits to the quality scientific work published in EMERGENCIAS has been essential to achieve this landmark.

Finally, during this year, both the Editorial Committee and the Secretariat of the journal will work together handling all documents in a computerised format by using a document manager. As this is a complex procedure, it is not yet open to authors, who must continue to submit their work the usual way to EMERGENCIAS (emergencias@medynet.com). However, the moment this procedure is more settled, authors will be able to enter the system, to follow the editorial process initially, and later to manage their documents themselves as is already happening in many biomedical publications.

There is no more news for now. We insist that simplicity, clarity and more room for research is what we want for Emergency Medicine. These

constitute the premise that has promoted such a deep change in shape and content, which has been long thought through and has been based on previous analysis of the needs of the Journal and the Society^{5,6,8-11}. All of this is now available for members. We would very much like to know your opinions about these changes and the Letters to the Editor section is always open to your comments and suggestions. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this issue of EMERGENCIAS and the times that Emergency Medicine is going through.

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