

## EMERGER Project: first outcome assessment

ÒSCAR MIRÓ, GUILLERMO BURILLO, SANTIAGO TOMÁS, MIQUEL SÁNCHEZ, ANDRÉS PACHECO

Editorial Committee of EMERGENCIAS, Spain.

A year and a half after the launching of the EMERGER Project<sup>1</sup>, it is now time to make the first evaluation of the steps taken to date, analyse the results achieved and inform our readers as to the actions that will be taken by the Editorial Board of EMERGENCIAS.

In the first issue of this year<sup>2</sup>, we announced the initiation and consolidation of a series of actions aimed at modernising both the formal appearance and the content of the journal and its diffusion to bring it up to the current standards of scientific biomedical publications. Although some of these actions will be fulfilled over the present year, we would like to analyse the results achieved during 2007, the first year of the EMERGER Project, from a more objective point of view. In brief, the analysis will be divided into three differentiated sections: the interest demonstrated by our readers, the dynamics of the editorial work and the final quality of the edited product.

With respect to the interest demonstrated by our readers, this may be inferred with two measures. The first is through the number of consultations made to the website of EMERGENCIAS during 2007. Our website was accessed on 264,871 occasions in 2007 (representing an increase of 120% over the entries made in 2006 during which time 120,634 consultations were received). A total of 424,016 pages were consulted (an increase of 66% compared to the 255,852 pages of 2006). Electronic diffusion of biomedical publications is undoubtedly of capital importance and it is very encouraging to see the growth rate achieved by EMERGENCIAS last year. In the near future we will analyse this electronic diffusion of EMERGENCIAS in internet more in depth. The second way of evaluating the interest aroused by EMERGENCIAS is to analyse the number of articles

sent by investigators for hypothetical publication. As has been previously commented<sup>2</sup>, the number of manuscripts received during 2007 rose 25% with respect to the previous year, and this increase reached 71% if we specifically take into account the number of original investigations sent to the journal. We therefore seem to be on the right path.

The dynamics of the editorial work has also undergone changes, although the total time from when the manuscript arrives to the editorial office of EMERGENCIAS to publication (or definitive rejection) has not substantially modified: from an average 225 days during the period 2003-2006 to 219 days in 2007<sup>3</sup>. However, on reviewing the main components of these times<sup>3</sup>, a different performance can be seen: the time of reviewer assignment has been reduced (from 26 to 22 days; 15% reduction) as has reviewer response (from 42 to 17 days; 60% reduction). The time for editorial decision has increased (from 55 to 80 days, 45% increase) while the time to publication has remained similar (from 102 to 100 days; 2% reduction). We believe that there are reasonable explanations for each of these changes based on the knowledge that this Editorial Committee has on the inside aspects of the process. Thus, while awaiting the implementation of automatic document management, the improvement in the time of reviewer assignment and their response may be attributed to the joint effort of the editorial secretariat work, the conscientiousness of our reviewers and the supervision of the editorial staff. On the other hand, the lengthening in the time to editorial decision, although clearly undesirable and excessive, entails a meticulous editorial process of the studies by which they are enriched, adding to their quality. Thus, authors are requested to make

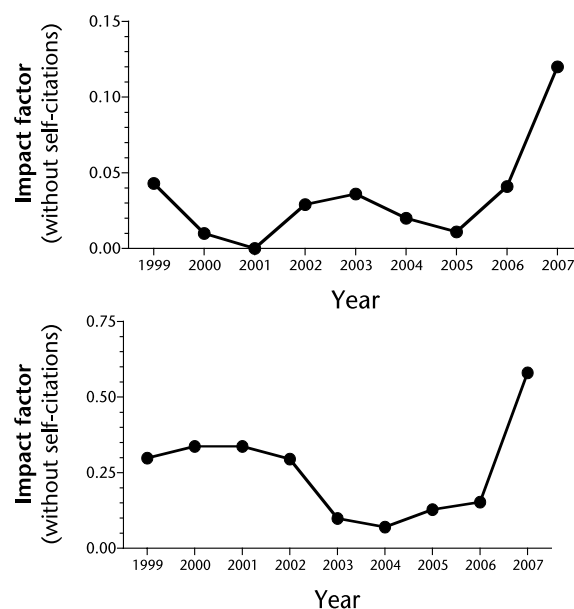
**CORRESPONDENCE:** Dr. Òscar Miró. Àrea de Urgències. Hospital Clínic. Villarroel 170. 08036 Barcelona. Spain. Email: omiro@clinic.ub.es

**RECEIVED:** 19-5-2008. **ACCEPTED:** 22-5-2008.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None.

corrections on 3 or 4 occasions prior to definitive acceptance. This process will accelerate over time due to both an improvement in the editorial dynamics and a greater initial quality of the manuscripts. We would, therefore, like to stimulate authors to make the maximum effort in the preparation of their articles before sending them in, while also begging for their comprehension in relation to the demands made by the Editorial Committee. Lastly, with respect to the time to publication, this is expected to be shortened after this year since the annual content of our journal has been expanded by 25%, from 354 pages in 2007 to 444 pages at the end of this year<sup>2</sup>. However, this is only the intention since if the number the manuscripts sent to the editorial office of EMERGENCIAS<sup>2</sup> continues to follow the current pace, the volume of the final studies to be published will also be greater and, perhaps, new measures for reducing this time will have to be considered.

Finally, we will briefly discuss the results of the quality of the final product edited. Concerning the new appearance of EMERGENCIAS, it is you the readers who have the final word as to the changes introduced. Within the field of objective quality it is not the intention of this editorial to carry out an exhaustive study of the many parameters (production, circulation, consumption, repercussion) that may be analysed in scientific publication. Although the excessive use and often erroneous interpretation of the impact factor has always been criticised, it is probably the indicator of repercussion which best translates, in a single parameter, the global quality of a journal<sup>4,5</sup>. Therefore, with this in mind, during 2007 EMERGENCIAS received 12 registered citations by the ISI Web of Knowledge in its Web of Science<sup>6</sup> database corresponding to 11 studies published in EMERGENCIAS during 2006 and 2007<sup>7-17</sup>. Since EMERGENCIAS published a total of 101 citable studies during these two years, the estimated impact factor of EMERGENCIAS for 2007 was 0.118, representing an increase of 188% with respect to the 0.041<sup>18</sup> estimated in 2006 (Figure 1). For those who are accustomed to this parameter, the impact factor of EMERGENCIAS may seem to be small. However, it must be taken into account that the citations of articles published in EMERGENCIAS produced in the journal itself (self-citation) are not counted by the ISI Web of Knowledge because EMERGENCIAS is not included in this database. Therefore, if we included the 47 self-citations made in 2007 in the calculation, the impact factor would rise to 0.578, representing an



**Figure 1.** Evolution of the impact factor of EMERGENCIAS with (above) and without (below) self-citations.

increase of 278% compared to the figure reported in 2006<sup>18</sup> (Figure 1). This value is thereby beginning to be comparable to that of the 11 journals indexed in the section Emergency Medicine of the ISI, whose impact factor for 2006 ranged from 3.120 for the American Annals of Emergency Medicine to 0.645 of the German *Der Unfallchirurg* (at the time of this editorial the impact factors of these journals corresponding to 2007 were not available)<sup>19</sup>.

Apart from this exercise in internal accounting we should consider the objective results which will lead toward complete recognition of EMERGENCIAS. It is therefore our pleasure to inform our readers that since only a few weeks ago our journal is mentioned in the SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online; virtual library of Spanish scientific journals of health sciences) and DIABLNET (virtual library of scientific articles in the Spanish language), and our request for incorporation into the repertory of journals of the CUIDEN base (database of nursing in the Spanish language) is currently under evaluation. These inclusions, together with our presence since many years ago in the Índice Médico Español (IME) and the Índice Bibliográfico Español en Ciencias de la Salud (IBECS), will complete our presence in the national databases of greatest use. Before the end of 2008, we will have applied for the incorporation of EMERGENCIAS in the international databases EMBASE and CINAHL. Based on the result of these applications and provided that the bibliometric parame-

ters of EMERGENCIAS continue to improve along these lines, the Editorial Committee intends to apply to MedLine for evaluation and thereafter to the ISI, both of which are undoubtedly the two repositories of biomedical journals of the greatest prestige worldwide. This is the last objective of the EMERGER Project: for EMERGENCIAS to become part of the cast of the best medical publications in the world. It will take time but we will do it. In the meantime all the actors involved have to join forces to achieve the targets that have been set.

## References

- 1 Miró O. Proyecto EMERGER: hacia el reconocimiento total de EMERGENCIAS. *Emergencias* 2007;19:1-2.
- 2 Miró O, Burillo-Putze G, Tomás Vecina S, Sánchez M, Pacheco A. La nueva imagen de EMERGENCIAS. *Emergencias* 2008;20:1-4.
- 3 Miró O, Burillo-Putze G, Tomás Vecina S, Pacheco Rodríguez A, Sánchez Sánchez M. Proceso y actividad editorial de EMERGENCIAS. *Emergencias* 2007;19:136-43.
- 4 Gervás JJ, Pérez Fernández MM, García Sagredo P. Science Citation Index: posibilidades y utilización. *Med Clin (Barc)* 1990;92:582-8.
- 5 De Granada Orive JI. Algunas reflexiones y consideraciones sobre el factor de impacto. *Arch Bronconeumol* 2003;39:409-17.
- 6 <http://www.accesowok.fecyt.es/login/> (accedido el 18/05/2008)
- 7 Amigó Tadiñ M, Nogué Xarau S, Gómez López E, Sanjurjo Golpe E, Sánchez Sánchez M, Puiguriquer Ferrando J. Medida de la calidad asistencial que se ofrece a los pacientes con intoxicaciones agudas en el servicio de urgencias. *Emergencias* 2006;18:7-16.
- 8 Gómez-Jiménez J. Urgencia, gravedad y complejidad: un constructo teórico de la urgencia basado en el *triaje* estructurado. *Emergencias* 2006;18:156-64.
- 9 Jairod Pamiás M, Carretero Bellón J, Closa Monasterolo R, Allué Martínez X. La densidad horaria de pacientes acumulados como indicador de saturación en urgencias. *Emergencias* 2006;18:215-8.
- 10 Junyent M, Miró O, Sánchez M. Comparación de la utilización de los servicios de urgencias hospitalarios entre la población inmigrante y la población autóctona. *Emergencias* 2006;18:232-5.
- 11 Segura Matute S, García García JJ, Corrales Magín E, Laguen del Olmo N, Palacín Camacho E, Juncosa Morros T, et al. Influencia de la prueba de detección rápida del virus de la gripe en el manejo del niño febril en urgencias pediátricas. *Emergencias* 2005;17:115-20.
- 12 Moreno Millán E. Las interrelaciones de la medicina de urgencias y emergencias con las demás especialidades. *Emergencias* 2005;17:260-2.
- 13 Navarro Villanueva R, López-Andújar Aguiriano L, Brau Beltrán J, Carrasco González M, Pastor Roca P, Masiá Pérez V. Estudio del tiempo de demora asistencial en urgencias hospitalarias. *Emergencias* 2005;17:209-14.
- 14 Rodríguez-Martos Dauer A, Torralba Novella L, Escayola Coris M, Plasència Taradach A. Viabilidad de la identificación e intervención sobre lesionados de tráfico admitidos en urgencias con alcoholemia positiva ¿Una utopía? *Emergencias* 2005;17:3-9.
- 15 Sánchez López J, Bueno Cavanillas A. Factores asociados al uso inadecuado de un servicio de urgencias hospitalario. *Emergencias* 2005;17:138-44.
- 16 Sánchez López J, Delgado Martín AE, Muñoz Beltrán H, Luna del Castillo JD, Jiménez Moleón JJ, Bueno Cavanillas A. Frecuencia y características de la demanda atendida en un servicio de urgencias hospitalario. Circuitos de atención. *Emergencias* 2005;17:52-61.
- 17 Carbonell Torregrosa MA, Girbés Borrás J, Calduch Broseta JV. Determinantes del tiempo de espera en urgencias hospitalarias y su relación con la satisfacción del usuario. *Emergencias* 2006;18:30-5.
- 18 Miró O, Burillo-Putze G, Tomás Vecina S, Pacheco A, Sánchez M. Estimación del impacto bibliométrico de EMERGENCIAS durante los últimos 10 años (1997-2006). *Emergencias* 2007;19:187-94.
- 19 <http://sauwok.fecyt.es/admin-apps/JCR/JCR> (accedido el 18/05/2008).