

Fábio Vilas-Boas

Salvador, BA



Mission accomplished

Upon taking over the position of Publisher of the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology*, almost two years ago, we established a final common objective: to raise the impact factor of the Archives.

Supported by a high quality staff of co-publishers (Fernando Bacal, Amanda G. M. R. Sousa, Antonio Carlos Pereira-Barretto, Carisi Polanczyk, Gilson S. Feitosa, Iran Castro, Maurício I. Scanavacca, Paulo R. S. Brofman, Paulo A. Lotufo, Paulo R. F. Rossi e Paulo J. F. Tucci), in addition to the support given by the SBC (Brazilian Society of Cardiology) Board through its Communications Director, Carlos V. Serrano Jr., and Chair, José Péricles Esteves, we have implemented several changes in the management of the journal, aiming at improving its quality.

The last two years witnessed the greatest feat of the entire history of the Archives. The journal became the only Cardiology publication in Latin America to be recognized by the world's most respected accrediting institution: the *Science Citation Index Expanded* from Thomson Scientific, the former ISI. This was one of the greatest achievements of the present publishers' staff, but, which is the result of many years of work and the consequence of a process which started in previous administrations which greatly contributed to the improvement of the journal. With this recognition, our publication will now be qualified by the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) as Qualis International B – the necessary classification for permission to publish doctoral theses. As of now, the Archives will be able to absorb the best works of Brazilian post-graduate courses, which will impact both the volume of articles received and the quality of the publication.

After having diagnosed the main problems of the journal, the technical and co-publishing staff implemented several measures, of which a highlight is the creation of web pages, thus eliminating the long line of approved articles and shortening the time between submission and publication to standards similar to those of few cardiology journals worldwide. We adopted technical procedures to give a more professional character to the process, so that the publication would achieve greater publishing freedom. The selection of new revisors, who are more involved in academic activities,

and the increase in rigour in the acceptance of articles have also contributed to enhance the quality of the Archives. The declaration of conflict of interests has become mandatory, and so has the declaration of financing sources and academic linking, thus guaranteeing more transparency and credibility to the Archives. These data will enable us to follow up on the evolution of the profile of the articles to be published in the years to come.

We created a set of working norms for the journal, which now governs the publication according to international parameters, established by the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals* of the *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors*. We included the journal in the Bylaws of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology (SBC), and we created the Board of Governors of the Archives (ConDArq), which will guarantee publishing and managerial freedom. This council, which will now manage the journal, is comprised of former publishers and of the coordinators of the top three post-graduate Cardiology courses as evaluated by CAPES. Since these are the main institutions responsible for scientific production in the country, we are, with this closer connection, contributing to improving the process of Cardiology research in Brazil. The next years will witness the result of these changes, now that the journal will have its impact factor assessed.

The hiring of the chief publisher through a public selection process is a victory of the Brazilian academic community. Until recently, the position was filled with a nomination by the SBC board; from now on, it will be based on technical and scientific criteria. This change is valid for the professionals who will work as of 2010 with a four-year term in office. The choice was made by a high-quality staff, by means of C.V. analysis and a public oral examination.

Thus, on behalf of all the technical and publishing staff who worked during the last two years, we would like to thank the trust and the prestige of the researchers who have submitted articles and of the colleagues who have done the editing of these articles with total dedication. Were it not for them, the Archives would not have reached its current high position.

Cordially yours,
Fábio Vilas-Boas
Chief Publisher