



Raul Urrutia

## ***Pancreatology* Becomes the Highest Impact Factor Journal in Our Field – Why Are We Looking for a New Editor-in-Chief?**

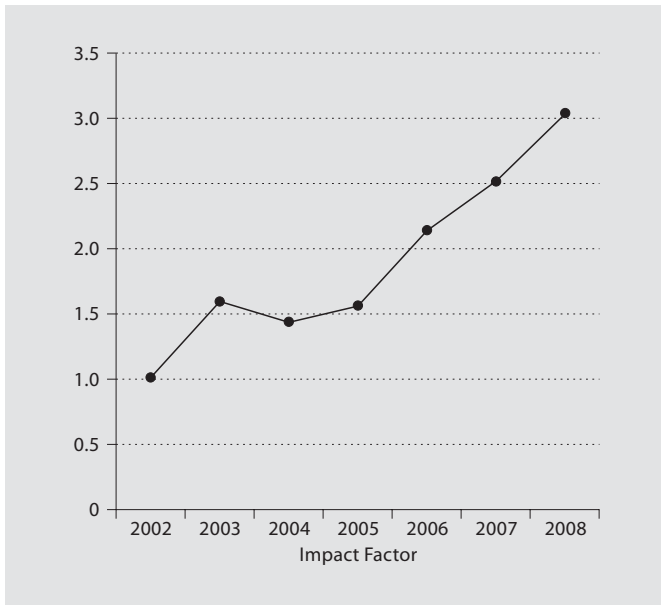
I am seduced by the idea that each enterprise we begin requires deep thoughts. Above all, the first step toward succeeding in any enterprise is commitment. Commitment to what, though?

Commitment to give all that we can to make it happen and grow. Several years ago, we set up the editor-in-chief office of this journal with the commitment mentioned above. Armed with a fantastic group of associate editors (Markus W. Büchler, Juan Iovanna, Markus Lerch, John P. Neoptolemos, Roland Schmid, T. Shimosegawa, Maria Ines Vaccaro, David C. Whitcomb and Jeremy S. Wilson), a superb editorial board (too many to cite here, but to whom I am heavily indebted for their guidance) and outstanding section editors (Gwen Lomberk, Mark Truty and Martín Fernández-Zapico), we initiated our trip with an impact factor barely close to 1 and worked our way to become the highest impact factor journal in the field of pancreatology, even surpassing the marks of many well-known journals dedicated to all the branches of gastroenterology. Currently, our journal has passed the impact factor mark of 3.

The journal completely changed its format and saw the birth of new and interesting sections. Sections such as

‘Pancreatology and the Web’ modernized our view by incorporating the latest developments, and the advice and experience from ‘Meet the Champions’ helped make outstanding people in the field better known. This success would not have been possible without the inspiration and dedication of everybody in the editorial team and the associates from Karger, in particular Peter Roth, Dr. Thomas Karger, Linda Haas and Patrick Näf. Therefore, borrowing from one of my favorite sayings, ‘it takes a village to raise a child’, I would state that it has taken almost a village to accomplish what we have. Consequently, my most sincere gratitude goes to these individuals.

We also chose to be guided by the belief that change is necessary for innovation and the principle that no editor-in-chief should remain in place longer than necessary. I have read journals where the editor-in-chief has been in place for 20 years and the original format and type of information provided remained the same. This is a fatal blow to the field since younger and creative people are not given the possibility to implement their innovative ideas and new directions for the field. Concretely, I strongly believe that it would be bad for *Pancreatology* to keep an editor for longer than five years. A five-year period should be enough for an individual to make their editorial contributions. Alternatively, in the event that things do not go well, five years is a safe time to stop. Therefore, the guiding principle of change is absolutely



necessary for reducing the chances of a 'feudal management' of the journal and to welcome innovation brought about by many of the members of our society who always amaze me with their original suggestions and creative powers.

We now come to the moment of this editorial where we announce that these principles remain strong. I look forward with enthusiasm, curiosity and hope to the results of our call for the election of a new editor-in-chief for *Pancreatology*. What makes me happier than having contributed to the journal in the past is the possibility I

still have of seeing the journal grow even further. It would be thrilling to see a new group with new ideas and with young people to do an even better job than we did. I also believe that the journal should always be in the hands of young people. We, the older generation, can help and strongly support their efforts but, make no mistake, innovation is the domain of the young.

Novelty comes from the creation of new sections which bring new information of a type that we did not have before. Expanding frontiers comes from writing and communicating not only with the individuals we know, but also to reach out to those we do not know. During our time, we incorporated many new societies as supporters and significantly increased our communication with emerging markets, such as China and India. Therefore, continuing with these efforts and doing more and better than we have done is a top priority of the new editor.

Finally, I would like to summarize that my tenure as editor-in-chief has been precious and full of wonderful surprises. I took the job without a sense of entitlement, but rather of service. I also admit that if, allegorically, the journal was a child, then 'it took a village to raise this one'. I will always thank you for the opportunity and trust that I was given to serve. This was a delightful office which I will never forget. I am looking forward to the new editor-in-chief and his/her group. We shall continue striving for excellence, and in science, change is part of it. We should look forward to this change, embrace it and cherish it. If innovative change is our future, we should do it with the highest impact factor journal in our field: *Pancreatology* – our journal.

Raul Urrutia, Editor-in-Chief