

Editorial

Our issue number 8 is published and has two interesting characteristics: the first is the fact that it is quite “thin”, presenting a small number of pages and the second one, is our first international paper. We are going to discuss both characteristics and try to understand how they are related to our present situation.

Let us start by the small number of pages. If this journal was printed, our readers would quickly realize that it is quite “thin”, with less than 50 pages. Many would think that this is a clue to a serious problem and an indication that this journal is going down. Nevertheless, this small number of pages is not a clue to decadence, but to vigorosity – if not physical, at least intellectual.

We could have a lot more papers published in this issue, since our rejection rate is close to 70% of the submitted papers. Nevertheless, we are not ready to compromise our quality only to have a “thicker” issue.

Our principles are straightforward: we want to be a quality journal that becomes a channel of communication between authors and reviewers. Our final goal is to allow the latter to contribute with their experience and knowledge to guide the authors in their pursuit of quality, allowing for better results and, in the end, for better papers. In the end, the authors shall have a better scientific and intellectual product, what will make our whole country better.

This conversation is essential to the publication process. None of our authors will ever be rejected without a solid explanation: all reviews come with significant contributions so that authors can improve their work, both in terms of research and writing. In this issue we have some papers that underwent three iterations with the reviewers before arriving at their current format, which, we believe, represents a high standard of scientific research and writing.

These principles are not negotiable. We will always collaborate with the authors so that they understand that our reviewers are critiquing them in a constructive way. We believe that if the authors introject this critique, they will improve their whole work and, by extension their submission to our journal (and all other papers they may try to publish in the future).

We will always follow the greatest scientific rigour to judge what may appear in our pages. If that implies in having a reduced number of pages (as in this issue), so be it. Life sometimes reserves success to the diligent for a further future.

As all Brazilian publications, we aspire to appear in QUALIS, be selected to the “Portal de Periódicos”, to have our journal inside SCIELO and to achieve all marks of perceived quality. Nevertheless, as stated above, we will not negotiate our principles for these goals. We are fully aware that some of these goals require a minimum number of articles published yearly (which goes along with the numerological fixation of our scientific community), but we believe that the moment we start compromising our principles to achieve a number, we will

be condemning our journal to a dark future with no prospect.

The basic conclusion anyone can apprehend from this editorial is that we will always be in the search for the perfect journal. We know that this goal is probably unreachable, but the continuous improvement process will always elevate our quality and we firmly believe that one day all these formal marks will attest that we are an excellent scientific journal.

This search for quality takes us to the second interesting characteristic in this issue: the publication of our first international paper, written by Professor Armando Vieira, from Portugal.

Once again, we could have more quality if we accepted to compromise our principles on quality, since we had many other international submissions. Nevertheless, they were rejected by our reviewers because they enforced the strictest technical quality criteria.

Nevertheless, the number of submissions from abroad is for us an indication that our work is being recognized for its quality. Authors from all over Brazil were already submitting their papers for analysis and posterior publication. Now, the geographic boundaries of our publication have expanded and our recognition is worldwide.

Don't think, however, that our journey is completed. We still have a long way to go and we believe that in the near future all formal marks will reflect our hard and diligent work. In order to achieve these goals we need the collaboration of the scientific community: first, with the continuation of your submissions and second (and equally important), by sending us your opinions and critiques so that we can maintain a continuous improvement process so that we can create a journal that effectively contributes to the progress of science.