

Presentation of the Editor of *Gaceta Médica de México*

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Editor

The *Gaceta Médica de México* (GMM) is our official diffusion publication, which shows the values of the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico. It serves to create an identity of Mexican physicians with their academicians and diffuses the scientific foundations of national medical practice.

I highlight its prestige based on its 154 years of age, given that, since its first appearance in 1864, it hasn't stopped being published. "You academicians do not imagine how valuable *La Gaceta* has been as a source of information for us historians" told me a Doctor in History, which is an acknowledgement by third parties as the documented memory of more than one and a half century of Mexican medicine and of the physicians who practice it. This has only been possible thanks to the generous, passionate and altruist work of the distinguished colleagues that have been its editors, as well as to the authors, who disinterestedly have shared their knowledge and experience with a social commitment.

GMM has had periods that were rich in achievements and hard and risky times, but it prevails thanks to the fortitude of the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico and the generous work of its members.

In 50 years of my professional career of, and 30 as an academician, I learnt the teachings and editorial guidelines from Silvestre Frenk, Francisco Olvera and Francisco Pérez del Rincón; at the same time, I appreciated Luis Benítez and Fabio Salamanca's tenacious work; I knew closely the stringent work of Alfredo Ulloa and Fernando Larrea and, recently, of Alberto Lifshitz, José Hálabe and Manuel Ramiro, at the current publishing stage with Permanyer in Mexico.

In current times, with the use of information technologies and communications, we have internet, smart phones, Google, drones, self-driving automobiles, etc., all this as a result of the last revolution we are experiencing. Modern financial systems, multiplication of printed and electronic publications, democratization of knowledge and popularization of technology and mass media

have become a present and future challenge for editors. Over the last four decades, other actors and participants that have given complexity to medicine, to science diffusion and to the delivery of scientific contents have been added. Our Academy and its diffusion publication, GMM, must face this new paradigm in order to firmly advance towards the future.

There are publications where the physician-editor or the medical journal editor role has been documented. It has been discussed in congresses and medical meetings on the same subject, as well as on those who practice scientific journalism or publish the popular "waiting room magazines". All of them conclude that knowledge, experience and dedication, as well as discipline and, most important, time, are required in order to achieve professionalization of this activity.

I have the characteristics (profile is called now) to accept the commitment to direct the GMM, which faces new challenges and risks in the present and in the near future.

In addition to the books I have published, out of which two were awarded by the National Academy of Medicine as best medical work in 2002 and 2002, I ask the reader to let me enumerate my editorial experience in periodical publications:

- National publications: *Tribuna Médica*, *Nefrología Mexicana*, *Revista Médica del IMSS*, *Cirugía y Cirujanos*, *Revista del Hospital Juárez* and GMM as coeditor during period of Francisco Pérez del Rincón, who put the editorial board and committee into operation. I also participated on its administrative committee during Emilio García Procel and Misael Uribe periods in chair, when costs were managed to be reduced.
- Foreign publications: *Peritoneal Dialysis Bulletin* (editor of the publication in Spanish), member of the honorary editorial board of *Peritoneal Dialysis International*, *European Journal of Urology and Nephrology*, and member of the editorial board of the following journals: *Journal of Artificial Organs*, *Biomaterials* and

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Artificial Cells (until its disappearance), *Therapeutic Apheresis and Dialysis* and, recently, of electronic journals *World Journal of Nephrology* and *Journal of Translation Internal Medicine*.

If you ask me what is going on with our journal, I answer: we don't publish all submitted works, only few Academician Symposia are diffused, and reviewer Academicians don't do it opportunely and promptly, which generates a delay in the peer-review process. The *In Memoriam* section has nearly disappeared; such is the case, that publishing another book on the subject such as "Hundred and Fifty Years of the National Academy of Medicine through the In Memoriam Section" will be impossible, which initiates the loss of part of the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico memory, as well as the history of its academicians.

What would happen if the admission requirements indicated that at least one the published works should be in GMM and the applicant submits his/her admission work for publication the same day he/she presents it? It could also be requested that to ascend from the numerary to the full member category, academicians should publish one work in the GMM at least every 5 years, or that speakers in academic congresses dedicate part of their effort and talent to diffuse them in our journal and, moreover, that all of them feel proud to publish in GMM.

In the General Secretariat report for the 2015-2016 biennium, the GMM current status was informed, and in the treasurer's report, its financial cost was shown. It is prudent for GMM to be up-to-date on the procedures corresponding to periodical publications at the Copyright Institute and to comply with its regulations, which will be one of our objectives.

In view of scientific publications' increasing offer, the abundance of generated medical knowledge, the emergence of Asian medicine publications, the proliferation of electronic and free-access journals, as well as with the necessity and interest of medical investigators to publish articles, publishing in GMM becomes unattractive for the academician. This has to be reverted!

The number of articles received in 4 years was 880 (an average of 220 articles per year) and, out of them, 60% was published. Currently, there are more than 100 manuscripts waiting to be published. This indicates that sufficient material is received, since GMM is an open and prestigious journal. Current challenge is to have a peer review system available in order to publish the best works and thereby elevate the quality of contents.

We will make available to authors an expedite procedure to submit the manuscript for acceptance or rejection, and a simple electronic follow-up route. We are committed

to carry out opportune distribution, to hand over courtesy issues to authors again and to preserve the journal in national medical heritage. By means of the presence of editors at the GMM office for longer time, direct and at the same time more human communication with the authors, readers and academicians is intended, with the disposition to solve editorial work everyday problems.

The Academy current board of directors, the editor and associate editors have decided not to make changes with regard to printing. GMM will remain as a paper and electronic publication, and its periodicity, extension or print run will not increase, mainly due to economic viability.

International medical societies with high-impact publications dedicate some pages to spread news on their associations as a strategy to show cohesion and interactivity with their groups; other publish the calendar of activities of forthcoming scientific events, with the purpose to encourage assistance and at the same time reading about them. The journal is a means for diffusing information, but also for social approach and identification between professionals who integrate an association.

I point at the qualities to achieve over the next 2 years at GMM in order for it to be a medical journal that is read by Mexican academicians and doctors: active, interesting, affordable, current, friendly and, above everything, valued.

I have invited as associate editors two colleagues with editorial experience: academician Miguel Cruz López, who is a Level III National investigator with more than 10 year's assiduity to the Academy, Chief of the Biochemistry Medical Research Unit of IMSS Siglo XXI National Medical Center, and Dr. Francisco Espinosa Larrañaga, with a Medical Science Master's Degree, over the years he was editor of the *Revista Médica del IMSS*, he improved and reorganized it and resumed the humanistic sense of editorial work. In all three of us there is the vision, the idea of work and improvement to face the challenges our meritorious GMM has in the present, and to maintain it in the future as a solid medical publication. We will be close to academicians, authors and readers, and near in affection to the GMM, the Academy and its board of directors.

Recently, Dr. Enrique Graue, on his acceptance speech to the French Academy of Surgery, said: "That is the great challenge faced by all academies: to position themselves as sources of authorized opinion on the problems we face"; and Dr. Armando Mansilla, on his inaugural speech as chairman, stated that there has to be action at the Academy. For that, we have the GMM, which has been the official publication of the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico for more than 150 years.