Enhancing medical journalism from Internet Medical Society

Ricardo Correa, Eloy Cardenas-Estrada, Manuel Menendez

ABSTRACT

Abstract is not required for Clinical Images

International Journal of Case Reports and Images (IJCRI)

International Journal of Case Reports and Images (IJCRI) is an international, peer reviewed, monthly, open access, online journal, publishing high-quality, articles in all areas of basic medical sciences and clinical specialties.

Aim of IJCRI is to encourage the publication of new information by providing a platform for reporting of unique, unusual and rare cases which enhance understanding of disease process, its diagnosis, management and clinico-pathologic correlations.

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EDITORIAL

OPEN ACCESS

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INTRODUCTION

Medicine in the 21st century has evolved into Evidence Based Medicine. By this, we mean that we have left behind the paradigm of unipotent knowledge given to us by our esteemed professors and have now entered the era of research where our hypotheses must be tested through scientific method.

Research and publishing is the foundation of our career. Through the application of research and subsequently the publishing of our work we can contribute to the scientific expansion of our chosen fields. We must be capable of producing and spreading knowledge in order for medicine to continuously develop. Each year scientific methodologies and the amount of medical researchers increase, urging the need for a platform to depict the medical community's results.

Continue Medical Education is a challenging stage which is not only clinical but also scientific. Due to a lack of time and inherent deficit in the knowledge of scientific journalism much of the work done at this stage goes unpublished.

Open access system

In the 19th and 20th centuries, medical societies started publishing the first medical journals. These journals published articles with case reports, and ideas on new therapeutic options. Some of them also published the results of biological experiments. All these early journals were printed journals that were sold to subscribers [1].

That is, one needed to be subscribed to a journal to get access to the contents.

But the internet era arrived and the means of publishing changed in all fields of science. First, existing publishers adapted their journals, making them mixed -both printed and online-, and online only in most cases later on. New publishers opted for online only journals from birth.

The new way of publishing changed business for good: scientific publishing has never been more profitable [2, 3]. The fee-for-access model that made perfect sense for the printed journals was no longer consistent with the mission of sharing knowledge because it limited the reach of the scientific literature [1]. For this reason, many publishers adopted a new model: the open access model. In this model, instead of charging readers for accessing journals, publishers charge authors -or their institutions- a fee to cover the costs of editorial works.

The open access model is now an established model, but it also brought some challenges. Much debate has been done about open access itself and about the fees charged by publishers: are these fees suitable or excessive? Who should pay the fees, authors and their institutions or funding agencies? What about authors who do not have funds for addressing these payments? Authors from developing countries have many difficulties in getting the funds needed to cover the costs, even when some publishers offer discounts for them. This is generating a dangerous bias in the access to publishing.

The scientific world needs a fresh infusion of idealism where the obligation of paying for publishing open access can be removed. We know this may seem difficult at first glance since publishing, even online, has some important costs to face [4].

Internet Medical Society

Internet Medical Society is a worldwide, independent organization. IMS is aimed at promoting best practices in the use of internet in medical practice and medical education including publication. We also aim to promote an exchange of information and ideas on the science and

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practice of medicine, both within the health professions and with responsible and informed public opinion [5].

We strongly encourage physicians from all around the world, particularly young physicians, to join IMS and to use this new source to publish their articles and create important discussion in the medical field [5].

Keywords: Medical Journalism, Medical societies, Open access, Open journal system

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Ricardo Correa – Substantial contributions to conception and design, Acquisition of data, Analysis and interpretation of data, Drafting the article, Revising it critically for important intellectual content, Final approval of the version to be published

Guarantor

The corresponding author is the guarantor of submission.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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