

# Change the Qualis criteria!

The Brazilian Medical Association (AMB) concerned about the future of scientific publications, after the release of the new QUALIS of CAPES, has been organizing since August 2009 a series of meetings at its headquarters in Sao Paulo, in partnership with the Brazilian Association of Scientific Editors - ABEC Brazil. The meetings resulted in an editorial called *Classification of journals in the system QUALIS of CAPES - the change in criteria is URGENT!* This editorial was signed by 62 editors of scientific journals and published in full in all of these journals and also in countless others mainly in the health science area, demonstrating that Brazil's periodicals are more and more committed to discussing the problems they share in common.<sup>1</sup>

The scientific community remains concerned about the outlook, the direction and future of Brazilian journals<sup>2,3</sup>. Thus, in the March 18 meeting, the editors present at the meeting were able to assess the effects of the first Editorial that was the basis for discussions at scientific meetings and events across the country. The latter meeting was attended by Dr. Lilian Caló, Coordinator of Science Communication and Evaluation of SciELO, which presented a comparative study of Brazilian journals in the database classified by two criteria: the first criterion according to the impact factor ISI / JCR, which uses only the journals indexed by Thomson Reuters, and the second was an index composed by simple addition of impact factors of ISI / JCR and SciELO. The impact factor SciELO that also considers citations from all of its basis journals, significantly modifies the number of citations obtained and, consequently, raises the impact factor of journals in Brazil. This fact was most evident with the demonstration presented by Dr. Caló of the percentage gain achieved by the journals with the adoption of the composite index. Clearly, associating other indexes, creating equivalence or several alternatives may favor the qualification of national magazines, improving their

visibility and enhancing the international indexation. It should also be considered that Brazilian researchers are choosing to publish their works in foreign journals rather than in domestic journals. This choice improves the classification of the Graduate Departments to which they belong, earning them a higher impact factor and increasing the H index, and all this entirely and exclusively on account of the new revised criteria adopted by CAPES. The search for greater visibility and quality of Brazilian scientific production should not be assessed on the basis of articles alone, but rather by focusing on higher qualification of our journals in order to be internationally recognized.

Considering that the criteria have already been set for CAPES' current triennial assessment, the assembled editors decided to develop a second editorial containing a list of suggestions to be forwarded to the coordination of CAPES for the next assessment. The list of suggestions which complement the first editorial is as follows:

- *Revision of criteria used by CAPES to classify the periodicals, suggesting the adoption of the composite impact factor calculated by summing up all of the impact factors of ISI / JCR and SciELO;*
- *Placement of ABEC Brasil (Brazilian Association of Science Editors) in the Scientific Technical Council of CAPES, so that the editors can be heard in the process;*
- *Request of the "Editor's Scholarship" with CNPq in order to aid scientific editing for publishers of Brazilian journals that receive support from the latter funding agency. This resource aims to improve the quality of journals for better dedication of their editors to editorial functions;*

Moreover, the editors assembled decided to get support from the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, of FINEP and Deputy Eleuses Vieira de Paiva for his demands and suggestions. In a second step the editors

will request a detailed breakdown from CNPq of the results and criteria adopted for allocation of resources of the Publishing Support Grants (*Editais para Auxílio à Editoração*). With this information the editors plan to build a database with information on annual budgets of Brazilian magazines that will be useful for benchmarking and mutual cooperation. The disclosure of both editorials and promoting continuous discussion remains our goal in order to get the recognition that national journals need and deserve.

#### REFERENCES

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3. Rocha-e-Silva, M. O novo Qualis, ou a tragédia anunciada. Clinics. 2009;64(1):1-4.

#### Signing this editorial:

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 Alfredo José Afonso Barbosa  
 Arnaldo José Hernandez  
 Aroldo F. Camargos  
 Benedito Barraviera  
 Bogdana Victoria Kadunc  
 Bruno Caramelli  
 Carlos Brites  
 Dejair Caitano do Nascimento  
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 Dov Charles Goldenberg  
 Edmund Chada Baracat  
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 Eduardo de Paula Vieira  
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 Flávia Machado  
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 Gianna Mastroianni Kirsztajn  
 Gilberto Camanho  
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 João Ferreira de Mello Júnior  
 Joel Faintuch  
 José Antônio Baddini Martinez  
 José Antônio Livramento  
 José Eduardo Ferreira Manso

Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial  
 Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial  
 Revista Brasileira de Medicina do Esporte  
 Revista Femina  
 Journal of Venomous Animals and Toxins including Tropical Diseases  
 Surgical & Cosmetic Dermatology da Soc. Brasileira de Dermatologia  
 Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira  
 Brazilian Journal of Infectious Diseases  
 Hansenologia Internationalis  
 Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular  
 Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Plástica  
 Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira  
 Revista Radiologia Brasileira  
 Revista Brasileira de Coloproctologia  
 Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Clínica Médica  
 Revista Brasileira de Terapia Intensiva  
 Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cabeça e Pescoço  
 Jornal Brasileiro de Nefrologia  
 Revista Brasileira de Ortopedia  
 Medicina Família e Comunidade  
 Revista de Administração em Saúde  
 Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia  
 Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology  
 Revista Brasileira de Nutrição Clínica  
 Jornal Brasileiro de Pneumologia  
 Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria  
 Revista do Colégio Brasileiro de Cirurgiões

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| José Eulálio Cabral Filho         | Revista Brasileira de Saúde Materno Infantil            |
| José Heverardo da Costa Montal    | Revista da Associação Brasileira de Medicina de Tráfego |
| José Luiz Gomes do Amaral         | Revista da Associação Médica Brasileira                 |
| José Luiz Martins                 | Archives of Pediatric Surgery                           |
| Jurandyr Moreira de Andrade       | Revista Brasileira de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia         |
| Leonardo Cançado Monteiro Savassi | Revista Brasileira de Medicina de Família e Comunidade  |
| Luís dos Ramos Machado            | Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria                           |
| Luiz Augusto Casulari             | Brasilia Médica   |
| Luiz Eugenio Garcez Leme          | Revista Geriatria e Gerontologia                        |
| Luiz Felipe P. Moreira            | Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia                     |
| Luiz Henrique Gebrim              | Revista Brasileira de Mastologia                        |
| Marcelo Madeira                   | Revista Brasileira de Mastologia                        |
| Marcelo Riberto                   | Revista Acta Fisiátrica                                 |
| Marcus Bastos                     | Jornal Brasileiro de Nefrologia                         |
| Mário Cícero Falcão               | Revista Brasileira de Nutrição Clínica                  |
| Mario J. da Conceição             | Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia       |
| Mauricio Rocha e Silva            | Revista Clinics   |
| Milton Artur Ruiz                 | Revista Brasileira de Hematologia e Hemoterapia         |
| Milton K. Shibata                 | Arquivos Brasileiros de Neurocirurgia                   |
| Mittermayer Barreto Santiago      | Revista Brasileira de Reumatologia                      |
| Nelson Adami Andreollo            | Arquivos Brasileiros de Cirurgia Digestiva              |
| Nivaldo Alonso                    | Brazilian Journal of Craniomaxilofacial Surgery         |
| Oswaldo Malafaia                  | Arquivos Brasileiros de Cirurgia Digestiva              |
| Paulo Manuel Pêgo Fernandes       | São Paulo Medical Journal                               |
| Regina Helena Garcia Martins      | Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology                |
| Renato Soibelman Procyanoy        | Jornal de Pediatria                                     |
| Ricardo César Pinto Antunes       | Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Cancerologia         |
| Ricardo Fuller                    | Revista Brasileira de Reumatologia                      |
| Ricardo Guilherme Viebig          | Arquivos de Gastroenterologia                           |
| Ricardo Nitrini                   | Dementia & Neuropsychologia                             |
| Rogério Dedivitis                 | Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cabeça e Pescoço         |
| Ronaldo Damião                    | Urologia Contemporânea                                  |
| Rosângela Monteiro                | Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular           |
| Sergio Lianza                     | Revista Medicina de Reabilitação                        |
| Sigmar de Mello Rode              | Brazilian Oral Research                                 |
| Tarcisio E. P. Barros Filho       | Acta Ortopédica Brasileira                              |
| Wallace Chamon                    | Arquivos Brasileiros de Oftalmologia                    |
| Winston Bonetti Yoshida           | Jornal Vascular Brasileiro                              |
| Zuher Handar                      | Revista Brasileira de Medicina do Trabalho              |