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CARTA EDITORIAL

Desde el pasado primero de enero de 2015 fui nombrado por la decana de la facultad de ciencias, Dra. Concepción Puerta, como editor en jefe de la revista *Universitas Scientiarum* (Univ. Sci.). Además del honor que este nombramiento significa para mí y de mi profunda admiración por los editores anteriores (Dr. Raúl Potou y Dr. Alberto Acosta), el reto es grande: i) Lograr la inclusión de Univ. Sci. en la base de datos bibliográfica ISI Web of Knowledge (WoK), ii) Lograr que Univ. Sci. forme parte de la editorial Elsevier, iii) Mejorar el posicionamiento de Univ. Sci. tanto en Scopus como en Publindex.

Desde mi punto de vista, a pesar de toda la controversia que esto pueda implicar, el principal indicador para alcanzar estas metas es el factor de impacto (índice de impacto) y, por lo tanto, son varias las estrategias que planteo para mejorar dicho indicador: i) Publicación solo en inglés. ii) Aceptar únicamente artículos originales y algunas veces, por invitación directa, artículos de revisión. iii) Mejorar los procesos de sometimiento de los trabajos, en el sentido de hacerlos más transparentes y amigables para los autores. iv) Plantear una contundente estrategia de difusión tanto al interior de la PUJ como a nivel nacional y latinoamericano. v) Adherir la revista al COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) que plantea, a nivel mundial, principios de transparencia y buenas prácticas en procesos editoriales.

El hecho de que Univ. Sci. sea una revista científica, en el sentido de que, además de ser la revista de la facultad de ciencias de la PUJ, el objetivo principal es publicar artículos en ciencias físicas, exactas y naturales, implica que debe seguir los estándares propios de esta metodología, incluyendo el aseguramiento de la autenticidad, la precisión y la exactitud de los trabajos publicados en ella. Además, debe cumplir con el objetivo de ser un ente difusor que expande el postulado de que el “desarrollo” de cualquier país se sustenta a partir del Desarrollo del conocimiento tanto científico (ciencias físicas, exactas, naturales, sociales y humanas) como tecnológico. Desarrollo entendido no solo como posibilidad económica, sino desarrollo también como la posibilidad de ser ciudadanos libres, críticos, tolerantes y democráticos.

Les presento, entonces, el Vol. 20(2) de Univ. Sci., mi primer volumen. En esta ocasión presentamos ocho artículos en biología, microbiología, ecología, bioquímica, genética y ciencias ambientales. En este número tenemos autores de cinco países y contamos con la colaboración de 49 evaluadores de 18 países. Espero que disfruten estos trabajos tanto como el equipo editorial de Univ. Sci.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

On January 1st, 2015 I was honoured to be appointed as the editor in chief of Universitas Scientiarum (Univ. Sci.) by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dr Concepción Puerta. I wish to acknowledge my deep admiration for the previous editors Dr Raul Poutou and Dr Alberto Acosta and to express my commitment in facing the three greatest challenges of our journal: i) achieve the inclusion of Univ. Sci. in the bibliographic database ISI Web of Knowledge (WoK); ii) sign an agreement on co-edition with the scientific/academic publisher Elsevier; and iii) improve the positioning of Univ. Sci. in both Scopus and Publindex.

From my point of view and despite all the controversy that this may raise, the impact factor is the main indicator for achieving these goals; therefore, there are several strategies that I suggest to improve this indicator: i) publish only in English; ii) accept only original articles and sometimes, by direct invitation, review articles; iii) improve the process of manuscript submission making it more transparent and friendly for authors; iv) work on a strong dissemination strategy both within the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (PUJ) and at the national and Latin American levels; v) adhere the journal to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) which proposes worldwide principles of transparency and best practice in editorial processes.

Besides being the journal of the Faculty of Science of the PUJ, Univ. Sci. is a scientific journal and in that sense the main aim is to publish articles in exact, physical and natural sciences, what means to follow proper standards of scientific methodology, including the assurance of authenticity, precision and exactitude of the published work in it; it must also comply with the objective of being a dissemination means that expands the postulate that the development of any country is sustained by the improvement of both scientific (physical, exact, natural, social and human sciences) and technological knowledge. Development should be understood not only as an economic possibility but also as the opportunity to allow the growth of free, critical, tolerant and democratic citizens.

I present then number 2 of Vol. 20 of Univ. Sci., my first volume. This issue contains eight articles in biology, microbiology, ecology, biochemistry, genetics and environmental sciences contributed by authors from five different countries. We thank the collaboration of 49 reviewers from 18 countries. I hope you enjoy reading this work as much as the editorial team of Univ. Sci. enjoyed preparing it.

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