

## **EDITORIAL**

### **Changes in the internal organization of the Journal**

The Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis was accepted in the Mexican Index of scientific and technological journals of CONACYT for 2010-2011, since October 2010 it is indexed at SCOPUS, starting January 2011 it is indexed in SciELO-Mexico, and beginning in December 2010 we are members at Cross Reference and we deposit metadata and are authorized to use a DOI number for each published article, with these changes our journal is starting to mature.

For this reason and as part of the process, the editorial committee has undergone several transformations.

I would like to thank the former members for their work towards this editorial project and to welcome the new members and continuing colleagues that will form part of our editorial team for the period from April 2011 to August 2012, when our responsibility in charge of the project will end.

The editorial work with the Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis has introduced us to an interdisciplinary field in which we have learned different aspects of design and editorial care, scientific tools for assessment, different criteria for evaluation of scientific productivity, as well as different ways of editorial management that allow the administration of differential consequences to the actors in their changing roles of authors and peer-reviewers. We also have learned from editors of scientific journals of other disciplines, about the best editorial practices.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the kind, complete and disinterested support that we have received from David Turner Barragán, General Director of the Publishing Department of UNAM and his team, Rogelio Rivera Lizarraga, from the Sub-direction of the National Institute of Authorship and his team, Adriana Ortiz Ortega and Ricardo Vidal Castro, both responsible for launching the megaproject Catalogue of scientific arbitrated journals of UNAM, to Guillermo Chavez and his team, in charge of the network of digital journals at DGCTIC-UNAM, to Fabian Romo, from DGCTIC-UNAM, who initiated us in the use of the OJS system, to Eduardo Aguado and Rosario Rogel, director and sub-director of REDALYC, who conducted special workshops on creative and bold editorial strategies and routines of decentralized deposit of metadata, and to Antonio Sanchez Pereyra, who opened the doors for us for using the SciELO-Mexico system for decentralized deposit of metadata. Without their advice and help, we would not have been able to speed up the recent advancements.

Based upon the training we received as an editorial team, we arrived to the conclusion that we have a long way to go still in order to improve our practices: we need to increase the rate of collaborative publications, from different institutions and countries, we need to reduce self-references, we need to promote the use of local articles of good quality from the region on behavior analysis and also we need to improve the quality of peer-reviews. In the obituary for Dan Cerutti written by Diana Moreno published in this issue, she transcribed an interview in which he shares the importance of a positive attitude for reviewing papers, and how to transform "cruelty" towards a more benign and constructive tone to allow authors to present their arguments in the best possible way,

whenever something deserves to be communicated. The work of peer-reviewers is one of the most important didactic activities a researcher could be involved with.

The editorial team in its segment of section editors, from this issue on, will perform specific functions to channel papers submitted to the journal in a crossed fashion, in this way, we add another chain to the security process for impartial double bind review. Under this system the section editor receives an anonymous paper with the instruction to assign it to three independent peer-reviewers, from institutions different from the one where the first author of the paper works. The editor will keep the anonymous assessments for future periodic inspections that different agencies perform on our journal and also to share these anonymous comments among the other peers who did review a particular article. We are fortunate enough to count with representatives of different geographical zones of the country, in order to prevent that a section editor could assign papers coming from the same geographic region where he works.

Additionally we started with this number, an internal system of peer-reviewer assessment, that will allow us to provide public reinforcement every year for the best performance in terms of speed of response, care and conceptual depth of comments accompanying every evaluation. We will also provide feedback to individual peer-reviewers, so they could have information on their comparative performance with the rest of the reviewers, and to improve their score if needed.

A well respected and expert editor, Bob Kaplan, one of the most cited authors in his field, answered to a question I posed to him on how to improve the quality of the papers published by the journal, as follows: "The advancement of a journal relies upon the quality of the reviews", and I could not agree more with him, since there is a close relationship between the quality of our journal and the quality of the work performed by our reviewers.

From my point of view, the journal is beginning to walk independently, and there is proof that the MJBA is not a forum in which members of the Mexican Society of Behavior Analysis publish in an exclusive manner. Our journal disseminates scientific research, with an external editorial board, and by that I mean that all members of this board belong to institutions different from the institution where the editor in chief works. The MJBA is a forum where behavior analysts, irrespective of their place of residence, affiliation or nationality, choose to publish their articles. The absence of endogamy in the sphere of authorship, peer-review and organization is an excellent practice, without which we could not have advanced to this consolidation stage.

We would like to pay homage to those who made possible that the MJBA has been alive and well for 36 years since its launching, for that purpose we created a new section entitled honorary committee. Thanks for founding and supporting this dissemination project of behavior analysis research!

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