The myth of the editor

José Luis Sandoval-Gutiérrez

Secretaría de Salud, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Respiratorias, Pulmonology Department, Ciudad de México, Mexico

In 2017 *Gaceta Médica de México* number 3, Espinosa-Larrañaga¹ presents an interesting editorial on the tasks of a scientific journal editor and his/her responsibility in improving its quality. The title of the present communication is the same that was used by Adolfo Castañón, *Fondo de Cultura Económica* former director, for an essay published in 1993.²

It is important pointing out that, for a journal with academic relevance to exist, contributions according to that situation are required.

In Mexico, the number of investigators of relevance increases year after year; the possibility of studying a post-degree abroad and academic exchange enable this new reality.

The problem is that, to meet high-level research standards, publishing in high-impact journals is demanded, which most are written in English and are produced in other countries, although, in our country, currently there are two medical journals that meet that requirement.^{3,4}

A scientist who belongs to the National System of Researchers has to comply with a scoring method to remain and be therein promoted; unfortunately, national journals provide low scores and therefore the investigator omits that possibility of contribution beforehand.

Due to the above, a *vicious circle* is generated: an original article is not submitted to a journal that awards

low scores but to another considered to be of higher impact, and the former therefore continues not receiving higher quality works.

The question is, how do we break that inertia? With a system of incentives and stimuli, it would be advisable, among the things that are demanded to the professional by the National System of Researchers, to consider a participation per percentage of investigations published in Mexican journals as a form of national scientific promotion, and with awarded scores being in accordance to those of works published in higher ranked journals. In order for science of a country to work, not only high-quality human resources are required, but also means of dissemination according to that level.

The myth of the editor can be progressively clarified if there is a commitment of all stakeholders involved in research, to the benefit of science and patients.

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Correspondence:

José Luis Sandoval-Gutiérrez
E-mail: sandovalgutierrez@gmail.com

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