Twenty-five years have already gone by... and many are still ahead of us

Vinte e cinco anos já se foram... e há muitos ainda a nossa frente

“Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That’s relativity.”
Albert Einstein

The relativity of time is always amazing. What is too long? What is too short? The adjective to be used depends directly on the degree of satisfaction found in a particular activity. However, if this was the case, activities that cause us pleasure should last forever or at least as long as our working lives and our good performance. However, this does not occur because the success of a particular activity is also related to another variable: renewal or, more precisely, innovation. Continuous innovation is necessary for sustained growth.

I have led this journal for six years now, working closely with Dr. Gilberto Friedman, the former Editor-in-Chief, for the first two years. They were 8 short and long years, full of challenges, as previously anticipated.\(^1\) If we take into account only the pleasure that this task brings to me, I would be the eternal Editor-in-Chief of Revista Brasileira de Terapia Intensiva (RBTI). However, it is part of good leadership to build the way forward. The future is in young leaders who are daring and full of energy and new thoughts that will lead us in new directions, to innovation.

The growth of a journal is progressive. RBTI is now 25 years-old, and the editors who preceded me contributed several bricks toward building up the journal’s foundations. Without the past, the present would not be possible, even less the future. I was in charge of putting more bricks on that foundation. Together with an outstanding team of editors, editorial board members, reviewers, and the journal’s administrative team, we placed many of these bricks. To each of you, my gratitude. As it is impossible to name you all, I personify this gratitude in our beloved Bete, known by many as Sônia Elisabete, the day-to-day pillar of our journal, my partner in each of those bricks.

From 2008-2009, as Director of Publication for the Associação de Medicina Intensiva Brasileira (AMIB), I assisted my friend Gilberto, Editor-in-Chief at that time, in improving the journal’s editorial quality. Improvements included a new and more modern design, more compatible with international standards. Additionally, revised processes and optimization of the editorial flow contributed to the journal’s more up-to-date look. These improvements were made with one goal: to seek quality and, with it, our international indexing.
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When I assumed the leadership of the journal in 2010, RBTI was indexed in LILACS and, since 2007, in the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO). Printed on paper in Portuguese, only this PDF documents were available on the SciELO website. Our articles were submitted by e-mails... Our next challenge: indexing in MedLine/PubMed, our passport for internationalization. An initial negative response, in October 2010, did not discourage us. On the contrary, we had a very instructive personal meeting in Washington with Dr. Kotzin, the former Associate Director for Library Operations of the National Library of Medicine. A new submission in 2011, again with negative response, did not discourage us either. We continued our quest and were finally rewarded in June 2013!

One of our strategies for modernization and internationalization was to create our own website in late 2010. The relevance of this achievement becomes clear when we remember that we submitted our electronic English version and not our printed Portuguese version to MedLine/PubMed in 2011. A nice improvement was our electronic submission system, the Manuscript Central though SciELO. In 2013, we took another important step: partnership with GN1, which is responsible for our new website, even more modern, with useful tools. With these new partners, we attempted a new challenge: PubMed Central, whose prerequisites in terms of electronic language are extremely stringent. New challenge, new victory in 2013. Also in 2013, our indexing in Scopus brought us our first international impact factor, the SCImago Journal Rank.

This journal history would not have been possible without the unconditional support over the years of various AMIB boards to which we owe our gratitude and our hearty thanks. We also thank the Portuguese Society of Critical Care (SPCI) as RBTI has been the official journal of this society since 2012. This conjunction of interests greatly contributed to our growth. Throughout this period, there was no lack of institutional and financial support, with full respect for the independence of the journal. We now have a Terms of Agreement, which was revised this year to consider the partnership with SPCI, and this provides yet another example of how seriously our society considers the journal and its success.

We grow. We grow as Brazilian and Portuguese scientific production grew. We have grown from a printed journal in Portuguese and Portuguese PDF files on the SciELO website to a modern bilingual journal, available at PubMed Central and on our own website with articles in XML/HTML format, with ahead of print publication, indexing in MedLine/PubMed and Scopus, and with a SCImago impact factor. We have already submitted and are awaiting acceptance from Thomson Reuters that will bring us our Journal of Citation Reports (JCR) impact factor. The number of accesses to our manuscripts, in both SciELO and on our website, has grown in proportion to our work and enthusiasm (Figure 1). This is the legacy of our team to my successor.

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Figure 1 - Accesses to the Revista Brasileira de Terapia Intensiva in SciELO website: http://www.scielo.br/statjournal.php?lang=en&issn=0103-507X. * Also from RBTI website: http://www.rbti.org.br/artigo-listar

Thiago Lisboa, our new Editor, I’m sure that in your hands we will conquer our next big challenge: increasing the impact factor of RBTI. Our new team of editors and our editorial board strive for excellence and willingness to contribute. I am proud to be part of this team, both as an Associate Editor and as a member of the Advisory Board, which will be under your orders for what suits you. No one should last too long; no one is eternal in any position. We welcome renewal and innovation.

Cheers to our future: may it be strong and long-lasting!

Flávia Ribeiro Machado
Editor-in-Chief
REFERENCES