

“Reviewing” the past year

A brief annual report of our Journal

Most Brazilians will not miss 2017. Very much the opposite. This year was signaled by profound political instability and abject social regression which directly affect millions of workers in all categories, with negative impact on health determinants — as already discussed in a previous editorial¹. Yet, there are some good reasons to celebrate significant advances in the terms of initiatives within Associação Nacional de Medicina do Trabalho – ANAMT (National Association of Occupational Medicine), including investment to improve *Revista Brasileira de Medicina do Trabalho – RBMT* (Brazilian Journal of Occupational Medicine).

Sharing in the joyful atmosphere of the holiday season, here we will remind the main “gifts” ANAMT prepared along 2017 for its members and all who read and appreciate its Journal. As a fact, *our* Journal, RBMT, currently in its 15th year, within the 49-year long history of ANAMT, which will complete 50 years in March 2018. I will mention some such “gifts”, even if I will leave other out for lack of physical space or in my memory.

To begin, this was the first year our RBMT published four issues, gradually passing from biannual to triannual to quarterly. Always on time and offering good content, which never lacked! Doubling the number of issues means a larger flow of incoming articles, but with no impairment whatsoever of the peer-review process, also resulting in a pedagogic interaction with authors. It also means doubling the amount of internal and external work, because the editorial process is long, from the initial submission of articles to the final delicious and thought provoking reading in the hands and to eyes of thousands of readers, professionals, scholars, investigators, opinion makers and interested people continuously looking for up-to-date and high-quality information.

This year the development and implantation of the electronic submission and editorial management system was also completed, thanks to the proficient work of our partner, *GN1 Sistemas e Publicações*. Following a long process of interaction with our editors, the system — now available at RBMT’s own website — allows accelerating the full cycle of processing starting from submission, mediated by our staff and supported by an external board of consultants and referees. As a result, accepted submissions are published faster (in their original form or following changes suggested by editors or referees). Indeed, there is no more a waiting queue at RBMT, this being good news for both authors and readers, because the “latent period” is shortened, and articles are more up-to-date. Tools for search by keywords help readers and investigators locate relevant articles faster.

The system also allows for external control, particularly of statistical data, which are essential to monitor indexing and abstracting in the current databases, and the ones to which we have applied or will apply to in 2018.

A major decision was made in 2017: all the articles will be simultaneously translated by a professional translator and published in English in electronic or digital format. Not only the current and future issues will be translated, but retroactively also all the issues published in 2017. With this authors gain, foreign readers gain. Everybody gains!

As nothing can be done without people, and highly qualified people in the case of ANAMT and RBMT, in 2017 the board of editors of our Journal was enlarged and restructured: Professor Frida Marina Fischer, head professor at School of Public Health and respected researcher, assumed the position of deputy editor in chief; Doctor João Silvestre Silva Junior was “promoted” from the Editorial Board to associate editor, together with

Professor António Souza-Uva (Portugal) and Professor Vera Lúcia Zaher-Ritherford. At the same time, many experts are being invited to contribute as consultants or *ad hoc* reviewers, always bearing in mind that, as expected from any serious scientific journal, our work complies with the fundamental rules of confidentiality and "blind" review for referees (and also for authors).

There are many other good news to share with our readership, but as the bad news is that the allocated space is over.

Season's greetings, may God protect us, bless us and make 2018 better than 2017!

René Mendes
Editor in Chief

REFERENCE

1. Fischer FM, Zaher-Rutherford VL. Tempos incertos e consequências sérias para a saúde [Editorial]. Rev Bras Med Trab. 2017;15(2):123.