

A new era for the European Journal of Anatomy

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For a large part of the last century Spanish anatomists found it hard to publish scientific articles in international journals and even in Spanish publications, in the latter case owing to their scarcity.

1947 saw the celebration in Granada of the Fifth Conference of the Portuguese-Spanish-Latin-American Society for Anatomy, with the

participation of distinguished professors and at that Conference two priorities were established: the creation of the Spanish Society of Anatomy and the possibility of publishing a journal as *a means for the Society to express itself*.

The possibility of having a journal did not come to fruition as such, although it did engender changes that were to propitiate the possibility of the publication of the work of our anatomists.

Before, the available journals available at that time were very scarce. The Anatomical Institute in Granada had the Anatomical archives of Professor Ortíz, where it was possible to analyze anything referring to Spanish Anatomy in the period from 1883 to 1912. In Zaragoza, as from 1913 the *Archivos de la Facultad de Medicina* were published and in Valencia, in 1943, we saw the start-up of the publication of the journal entitled "*Archivo Español de Morfología*", directed by Professor Barcia Goyanes, which published articles from Spanish authors referring to general morphology, anatomy and embryology. This publication, after a good number of issues, was followed by two new journals: *Anales del desarrollo* and *Anales de Anatomía*.

In 1960, in Granada, the journal entitled "*Anales del Desarrollo*" appeared, which was published unceasingly for 29 years, later it disappear when another journal came on the scene namely, the *Internacional Journal of Developmental Biology*, still available today and a

good world reference in the field of developmental biology.

A little before, in 1952, the Journal *Anales de Anatomía* appeared, which in its inception was a supplement for the Archives of the School of Medicine in Zaragoza. Directed by Professor Escolar, the Journal lasted until 1983, publishing 86 issues in XXXIII volumes. After a few years without being published, 1987 saw the re-launching of the journal, this time under the supervision of Professor Sarrat who gave the journal a new thrust, continuing with issue 87 (Vol. XXXIV), until it was closed down again, with issue 100, in honour of Prof. Escolar (December, 1993).

Here I would like to recall Prof. Sarrat: his curious outlook moved him to ensure that the journal would not be lost. At the time there were few economic possibilities and the difficulties involved in publishing were huge. Professor Sarrat managed to keep the Journal afloat for a few more years until he finally had to stop.

In a eulogy to Professor Sarrat upon the occasion of the latter's retirement, in the book entitled "Amicorum Liber Doctori René Sarrat", Professor Nieto states that they had rescued the Journal "Anales de Anatomía", a publication fostered by D. José Escolar, bringing it up to issue 100 in December 1993 and making it available to all Spanish anatomists and the main libraries of the United States and of Europe.

Four years later, in 1997, our own Journal appeared, born with a different outlook. It emerged under the name of the *European Journal of Anatomy*; it is published in English, and it is a vehicle for the Spanish Society of Anatomy to express its thoughts and opinions, thereby fulfilling the wish of our forerunners. Since then it has attempted to offer a medium for the activities of domestic and international scientists.

Its directors have been Professor Sarrat and myself. Since the inception of the EJA we have published thirteen volumes, plus 39 issues

and 11 supplements (a total of 50), together with 324 papers.

To date we have undergone some changes with a view expanding our sphere of interests. As from 2000 (vol. 4, issue 1) there was a change in the management, in which I appeared as coordinating editor, while Professors R. Sarrat, G.F. Jirikowski and P. Mestres were designated receiving editors.

Finally, come to this third change in our style, which we consider to be a true relaunching of the Journal. We sincerely hope that this new form of publication will be up to the standards of the medical science of the third millennium.

Henceforth, the Journal will be published on-line: its logo will be changed and its publication will be under the supervision of new editors, who aim to offer a new focus.

The journal will only be published in digital form and it will be endowed with an IT system to optimize the Journal's management and its image, with a modern and attractive Web site. We shall attempt to offer greater international diffusion, providing better and easier communications among scientists. It will be interactive and dynamic, allowing fluid relations between authors, editors and reviewers; it will be fast-paced, because through automating the routine editorial processes waiting lists will be shortened and publication will be speeded up.

We shall also do our best to make the journal more competitive by giving it greater visual diffusion by indexing it in some databases used by researchers, and we shall endeavour to make it influential in the many different fields of anatomy.

We therefore hope that the new format of the European Journal of Anatomy will be up to the standards of the third millennium, with its optimized edition, an attractive image, an international outlook, and measurable impact. We are sure that in its future format our new EJA will not disappoint the many researchers and scientists who have contributed their excellent work to our Journal.