

## Forty years of *Cirujano General*

### *Cuarenta años de Cirujano General*

Forty years ago, the first issue of the journal *Cirujano General* was published. At the time, there were close to 70,000 physicians in Mexico. The reach of publications was limited to their number of printed issues. Most Mexican journals published between 2,000 and 5,000 copies. Therefore, due to their limited circulation, no journal (including those that published over 10,000 copies of each number) could even dream of reaching all of the country's physicians. To think of distributing a journal throughout Latin America or the world verged on the fantastic. To increase their reach, publications attempted to gain access to medical school libraries and the main hospitals and medical centers countrywide; some, those with the largest resources and enterprising editors, sent issues to a few institutions in Latin American and around the world. Nevertheless, their reach was still limited, particularly due to the prohibitive costs of postal distribution. Very few Mexican journals were able to be included in the *Index Medicus*, which considerably increased their visibility, although the possibility of consulting them remained limited for several reasons.

Even with such limitations, *Cirujano General* had an adequate reach and great acceptance among Mexican surgeons during its first 20 years in circulation. At the beginning of the new millennium, our journal also began to publish its electronic versions: one on the internet and another as a CD-ROM. As of the year 2000, a full text- open access version was included in the *Medigraphic: Literatura Biomédica* index. Since then, its visibility and reach, as well as the possibilities to be consulted, have been and are virtually unlimited. In Medigraphic, between 2000 and 2017, *Cirujano General* has been visited almost five million times (4'763,897), resulting in over nine million downloads (9'217,906) of full-text articles (PDFs) compiled in the website.

From its beginnings, and particularly over the past 17 years, *Cirujano General* has become an important medium for spreading surgical and medical information, not only in Mexico but throughout Latin America. Thanks to its electronic version available on the internet, it is currently an important source for consultation by surgical professionals, surgeons in training, physicians and, of course, medical students. Three achievements are the basis for this: 1) The large number of visits to *Cirujano General* in the index *Medigraphic: Literatura Biomédica* every day, as well as the large number of downloads of full-text articles (PDFs) by users; 2) The fact that various databases, libraries, and electronic indices have created links providing access to *Cirujano General*, and 3) That, due to the promotion by Medigraphic, *Cirujano General* was incorporated into the SciELO web in 2012.

The *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (SciELO) is an online periodicals library that includes a network of collections of full-text scientific journals with open, free access. The regional SciELO web includes academic journal

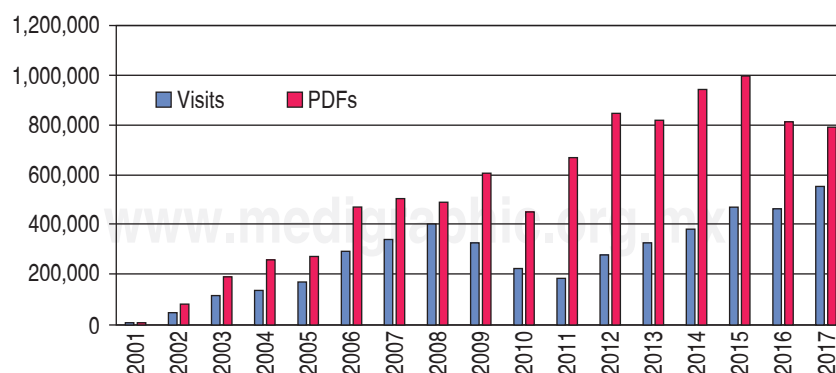
collections from 15 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela. SciELO is the result of an initiative by the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME), an international organism which is part of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

In 2011, SciELO and Thomson Reuters ISI established a collaboration agreement whereby SciELO would work with the Thomson Reuters platform and become integrated into it. Nowadays, Thomson Reuters ISI is doubtless the most important research platform to find, analyze and share information on science (including, of course, biomedical science), social science, the arts, and humanities. Thomson Reuters ISI maintains a citation database encompassing thousands of journals, known as the *Science Citation Index (SCI)*, that can be consulted online through the *Web of Science (WOS)*.

SciELO is currently integrating its publications to the *SciELO Citation Index-Web of Science*. It demonstrates, therefore, how important it is for *Cirujano General* to be part of the SciELO collection. Unfortunately, in 2014, *Cirujano General* was suspended from the SciELO collection. This resulted from the fact that Elsevier, the publishing company that edited the journal in 2014, did not submit the materials nor the metadata markup required by SciELO's methodology.

In 2015, *Cirujano General* began a new era, with Dr. Abilene C. Escamilla-Ortiz as its editor. Thanks to her commitment and to the surgeons who have submitted their papers for publication, the journal has maintained its academic quality and is again in order. In 2017, thanks to the promotion by Medigraphic, SciELO reassessed the journal, and it will again be integrated into this important database as of 2018.

In the meantime, the journal *Cirujano General* has maintained an enormous flow of visitors and an extraordinary number of consultations in the index *Medigraphic: Literatura Biomédica*. Only in the past year (January 1 through December 31, 2017), a total of 551,849 visits were recorded, which on average represent 1,512 visits per day or 63 per hour, meaning one visit per minute per day throughout the 365 days in a year. In terms of full-text article consultations (PDFs), there were 788,762, meaning 1.5 articles downloaded every minute (or three every two minutes). Forty-five percent ( $n = 248,332$ )



**Figure 1.** Visits and of PDF downloads registered by *Cirujano General* in Medigraphic: *Literatura Biomédica*. 2001-2017.

of visits are from Mexico, 25% (n = 137,962) from the United States, 4.2% (n = 22,073) from Colombia, 3.6% (n = 5,519) from Argentina, 1.4% (n = 5,519) from Ecuador, 1.4% (n = 5,519) from Spain, 1% (n = 5,518) from Cuba, and the rest from 72 other countries.

Facing this surprising and encouraging panorama, *Cirujano General* celebrates 40 years in existence and, with this number, begins its fifth decade.

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