

General Surgeon Journal in English

Revista Cirujano General en inglés

*If the ideal is for researchers to publish their work so that it is read as
much as possible,
does it also mean they should publish in English?
Gregory Morley*

*It always seems impossible until it is done.
Nelson Mandela*

Since it first appeared in 1980, *Cirujano General* journal has been published in Spanish, with a good outreach. Current times show us that we must adapt to technology, publishing on line since, as mentioned in our previous issue, our articles are read and downloaded in Mexico, the United States, Latin America and other regions. When this Board took office, it was proposed that, besides being published in Spanish, the journal should have an English version, since it is the language in which most science is published. This change would make it possible for us to be read in other countries, which would also increase the number of accesses and, consequently, the citation index.

Until the eighteenth century, the lingua franca of science was Latin; from then on, French, German and English started having an important role in scientific publications. However, during the twentieth century, English became more prominent and started to be considered as the lingua franca for the scientific community. According to Thomson Reuters®, 79% is published in English and only 6% in Spanish.

In order to have a bilingual journal, all articles should be translated in full, without losing the essence of the Spanish original when published in English. This is no easy task; on the contrary, it is a complex job, since the translator must have consistency, style, and the ability to capture the idea of the author writing in Spanish in order to transfer it to English.

Besides time, this also involves costs that, in other countries, are covered by the author but, in our case, will be paid for by our society, the Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía General, I join in and I am committed to overcome this new challenge, for the benefit of both authors and readers. This will also increase the visibility of our journal which, eventually, will be present in more international indexes.

Abilene C Escamilla O, MD
Editor, *General Surgeon Journal*.