

## A NEW PHASE FOR *INTERCIENCIA*

The many vicissitudes resulting from the lack of official support, the shortage of paper and other consumables and, as a final blow, the cessation of international operations of the Venezuelan postal institution, have taken *Interciencia*, published since its beginnings already over thirty eight years ago in Venezuela, to move to another country where it is welcome. After several years facing obstacles and uncertainties, this journal has attempted to survive through diverse modalities of association and services. Finally, beginning this month of July 2014, an Agreement subscribed with the Universidad de Tarapacá, Arica, Chile, will allow to operate and publish the journal from its offices in Santiago de Chile for a renewable period of three years.

This is a unique opportunity that will permit the renewal of the journal in several aspects. The inclusion of new members of the International Consulting Editorial Board, already due since four or five years and still pending because of, precisely, the lack of certainty about continuity, will finally be carried out. The present orientation of the journal, characterized by the publication of research papers of the most diverse disciplines, could be enlarged by recovering components that used to fulfill an important role in regional integration, such as the InterNews, Institutions of the Americas, Open Forum and others.

On the occasion of subscribing the above mentioned Agreement and as the beginning of its implementation, the present issue is dedicated to the publication of results of the work of researchers from the Universidad de Tarapacá. In this manner it is intended to give visibility to the ample spectrum of orientations that make up the specialties of those who carry on their academic activity in this institution, something that is a rather novel set of papers for *Interciencia*. It is a sample of the diversity of fields and approaches that

coexist in this thriving higher learning center located at the Northern extreme of Chile, which after only somewhat more than thirty years of existence has already been able to gain regional and national recognition.

In the content of this issue stands out the strong emphasis on local matters, without disregarding the scientific rigor, as a clear orientation of an ambitious provincial university and which can be appreciated in studies that span from the sexuality of Aymara women to the solar irradiation in the area and its relation to a high incidence of skin cancer. The need to establish the history of past settlers and current populations in a frontier and littoral zone of conflict and migration, motivates the presence of papers on the cave art of ancient settlers, the national imaginary in local publications and characteristics of the population of Chinese origin at the beginning of last century, next to current socio-cultural aspects such as the characterization of local labor in fishing activities, senile depression and the education offered to a multicultural population.

Such interest in what is markedly regional does not exempt the examination of matters of national interest as is the institutional accreditation and university quality, or to focus on basic subjects as are the characteristics of modern electronic devices or the germination and growth of plants with commercial interest. Lastly, aspects relating to human health and not restricted to the local can be also found, like the determination of irradiation levels in cardiologic studies in infants or the calibration of pediatric radiology equipment.

We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the authorities of the Universidad de Tarapacá, headed by the Chancellor, Arturo Flores Franulić, to the Past Chancellor and architect of the Agreement, Emilio Rodríguez Ponce, and to the local coordinator of this Special Issue, Alberto Díaz Araya.

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