

## PENDING MATTER

After four uninterrupted decades of timely publication and several years of uncertainty, the option of continuity that opens with the subscription of the Agreement between the University of Tarapaca and the *Interciencia* journal, and the ensuing opportunity of producing the journal in Chile, bring to the front line numerous postponed decisions. There are several foreseen actions that have not taken place in recent times due to the lack of certainty regarding the future of the journal.

The first of them is the incorporation of new members to the International Consulting Editorial Board, generally designated as Editorial Committee, that helps and advises the production staff of the journal on editorial matters. The needed substitution of members that are not with us anymore and the incorporation of 'new blood' that represents the current tendencies of science, technology and innovation in the region and the world has become a matter of urgency. These facts have motivated the recent invitation made to several members of our scientific community to take part in the Committee and the thanks expressed upon their acceptance.

Updating the journal's format is another pending matter. Should the printed version be maintained considering the high costs of its printing and distribution, as well as the globalization of the access to internet? The disappearance of the printed version would have rather important implications for academic libraries that have religiously maintained their collection and would also eliminate the current income from subscriptions, given the fact that *Interciencia* will continue to be a digital open access journal. This, in turn, imposes the need to continue to request contributions from the institutions to which the authors belong or from their research granting agencies, in order to assure the revenues needed for the survival of the journal. Notwithstanding all the existing difficulties, we stand loyal to our principle of avoiding personal contributions.

We have also resolved to reactivate sections that, in other times, provided contents of general interest for our communities and audiences. We are referring, for instance, to the proposal and organization of thematic Town Meetings, where personalities would be invited to open public discussions on topics of common interest in our countries and in the world, an initiative that we will attempt to undertake next year, when we will reach our fortieth annual volume. Another section that used to add value and regional presence to our pages was that of Institutions of the Americas, detailed portraits of the most important centers for the generation of knowledge in the region, of which we would try to produce two per year. In this manner we expect to disseminate the exemplary efforts that our researchers carry on within the frontiers of their respective countries.

The new operation scenario of the journal also imposes the need to attend matters that are new to us. Once we overcome the present phase of physical installation and initial organization of the work in the new location, it will be necessary to deal with the legal formalization of the journal registration with the governmental authorities at the new venue. On the other hand, we have committed ourselves to give support to the numerous editorial initiatives that are taking place in the University of Tarapaca and to this end we plan to organize diverse activities oriented towards the professionalization of the different aspects of the editorial activity.

The challenges that we face now are numerous, as are big the optimism and the willingness to work with which we assume them.

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Editor