

## THE DISCREET CHARM OF MULTIDISCIPLINARITY

The *Interciencia* journal was founded 38 years ago by Marcel Roche. He enjoyed the close collaboration and strong influence of the American physicist Philip Abelson, who was the Editor, from 1962 to 1984, of the highly renowned *Science*, the journal of the AAAS. Besides representing a trilingual mean for the dissemination of results of research performed in the countries of the Americas in any discipline, through the publication of original and review articles, *Interciencia* was conceived as a mechanism for the interaction, cooperation and coordination of the organized scientific communities of the Continent. Since its beginnings, the journal maintained a section of news and another with articles about distinguished personalities and institutions of science and technology from the different countries of the region, as well as a page with forthcoming events announcements.

These last sections and announcements progressively disappeared due to the lack of financial resources. However, *Interciencia* has maintained its rigorously peer refereed sections, as well as its multidisciplinary character. Much has been discussed at the highest management levels of the journal about the convenience of multidisciplinary. Being the majority of the published papers in Spanish and Portuguese, its lack of thematic specificity does not favor its presence in mainstream science and, therefore, its impact factor in the *Science Citation Reports*, where it has been indexed since its beginnings, is notably low.

Unfortunately, given the relationship networks detected among the papers published in *Interciencia*, the specialists from the above mentioned index proceeded to transfer it some years ago from the 'Multidisciplinary' area to that of 'Ecology', which indeed does not correspond to the spirit of the journal nor to its contents, as it becomes evident upon examining any issue or the annual index. The current issue, for

instance, is in fact made up of works in highly dissimilar and varying areas whose only common factor is their pertinence to the development of the capacities of our peoples, its analysis and possible utility on behalf of the peoples's welfare.

In this way, studies are reported about corrosion in steel pipelines, a topic of utmost relevance in the oil industry; a comparative analysis of the users of social networks in some countries of Latin America and the Middle East; a study of public policies for the small and middle industries; or a study of the characteristics of the degradation of tropical forests, a painful and transcendental matter for many countries of the region. By the way, the latter one is the only paper included in this issue that could be classified as ecological in nature.

The multivariate set of themes published is completed by other studies, all of them of economic and social value, about artisanal fisheries, biomass production with hydroponic forage from cereals and the nutritional value of insects that are commonly consumed in some countries, a study of a more fundamental nature, although of widespread application, about the selection of maize genotypes that are tolerant to the heat of our tropical regions, and another one about the utilization of industrial wastes for wooden planks manufacturing. The table of contents of the current issue ends with an analysis of the maturity models of information systems and technologies for the health sector.

As it can also be appreciated in the annual index of *Interciencia*, the topics covered in the 48 articles, 75 research communications and 10 essays published in the volume 37 of 2012, originating in 20 countries, cover from basic sciences to public policies, passing through technological applications and market analyses, representing a wide spectrum of disciplines united by the necessity of progress and wellbeing of our people.

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