
FAREWELL

After having written over a hundred editorials in *Interciencia* since I took charge of the operation of the journal in 1998, it is now time to write a last one, a farewell. It is not easy, in circumstances such as these, to delimit what one would like to, or should, express. The positive experiences that could be evoked as the result of so many years of dedication are countless, but at this moment several achievements surface to my mind as being worth evoking.

Some of them are of a subjective character as, for instance, the sensation of satisfaction that derives from the help and support given to the members of the scientific community of our region, particularly to students and novel researchers, so as to fulfill the goal that the results of their efforts and dreams become a reality upon publication of their papers. Others are more objective, as it is having been able to continue and complete the work of the founding editor of the journal, Marcel Roche, maintaining its regular appearance for a quarter of a century, reaching its 47th volume, something I consider of importance given the many inconveniences of political, economic, and administrative nature that we had to confront.

The aperture of the journal to the publication of papers in the realm of the social and humanistic sciences is also objective. Said aperture required to induce many authors to accept the use of presentation forms that correspond to the so-called 'hard' sciences, as are the general format of the articles, its components and the citation and bibliographic reference listings, which to a large extent follow different rules.

The opportunities in which there could have been differences or confrontations with personnel, colleagues, directives, or authorities, whichever their cause, pass to a second level and get lost in the immensity of memory. Disagreements and annoyances are unwanted components of many

proactive actions, but their impact is diluted on passing to a lower level and being mitigated by time.

It is obligatory, and is accompanied by a profound satisfaction, to remember and to acknowledge the help and support received during all my time in charge of *Interciencia* from the staff of the editorial office, since without their contribution it would have been impossible to publish the journal. Also, that of the members of the International Editorial Committee, who never failed to side with us in our efforts and, that of the members of almost all the directives of the *Interciencia* Association, who gave us stimulus and approval during our tenure. As it is said "last, but not least" I thank all the innumerable entities and institutions that financially backed our journal.

A totally camouflaged and hidden brigade is that made up by the thousands of scientists that, in a completely disinterested manner collaborated with the journal in their role as referees, for whom our gratitude is manifest. Without them it would have been impossible to achieve an adequate peer review, the fundamental pillar of any scientific publication of recognized reliability.

Finally, I must express my sincere recognition to the thousands of researchers and students that trusted their materials to *Interciencia*, respected and accepted the editorial decisions and, when they were required, interceded before the authorities of their institutions or provided from their own pockets to help maintain the journal. And, although their names never appeared on the pages of *Interciencia*, it was always crucial to count on the support of my wife, family, and friends. To all of them, thanks.

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Editor, *Interciencia*