The first 120 years of the Revista Mexicana de Oftalmología

Los primeros 120 años de la Revista Mexicana de Oftalmología

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“All great achievements require time”

Maya Angelou

Written scientific dissemination has a history of over 2 centuries. The first Ophthalmology journal was founded in 1801 in the city of Braunschweig, Germany, under the title of Ophthalmologische Bibliothek, whose first issue appeared in 1802 and its first editors were Karl Himly and Johann Adam Schmidt^{1,2}; however, it is not published anymore.

The first journal belonging to a medical society was Archiv für Ophthalmologie, of the German Ophthalmology Society, founded in 1854 by Albrecht von Graefe². In the Americas, the first journal was the American Journal of Ophthalmology, founded in 1862 and, coincidentally, publishing its first issue in July of the same year. Its first editor was Dr. Julius Hornberger. Like Ophthalmologische Bibliothek it is no longer active, but it is important to note that this journal is not the same as the current American Journal of Ophthalmology, which was founded 26 years later, in 1884, by Dr. Adolf Art, who was its editor for 34 years³.

The first journal of a medical society in our country was Anales de Oftalmología, founded in 1898 in Mexico City, with the editorial work of Drs. Manuel Uribe Troncoso and Daniel M. Vélez^{2,4}. This event had a great impact on the international scientific community, so in

an editorial in January 1899, the editors thanked the echo received by the publication of Clinique Ophtalmologique de Paris, the Annals of Ophthalmology of the USA. and the Crónica Médica Mexicana².

The history of the scientific diffusion body of the Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología (Mexican Society of Ophthalmology) began 5 years after its foundation with the appearance of the first issue of its journal in July 1898. At that time, it was named Anales de Oftalmología, published by Drs. Manuel Uribe Troncoso and Daniel M. Vélez^{2,4}. During the first 17 years it was published every month. In 1918 it changed its name to Anales de la Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología and two years later, along with the integration between ophthalmologists and otolaryngologists, the journal name was changed to Anales de la Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología y Otorrinolaringología, remaining until 1945, year in which both specialties separated and the journal changed its name to Anales de la Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología. In 1987, it acquired its current name from the merge of two journals: Anales de la Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología and Archivos de la Asociación para Evitar la Ceguera en México. Subsequently, in 2015, it merged with the Boletín del Hospital Oftalmológico de Nuestra Señora de la Luz, continuing with its current name, Revista Mexicana de Oftalmología (RMO)⁵.

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During these 120 years of history, the journal has published works with a great impact at a national and international level. The high quality of the articles published motivated other journals such as *Recueil d'Ophthalmologie*, *Archivio di Ottalmologia* and *Bolettino d'Oculistica* to analyze the original works that appeared in the Mexican journal from their first publications².

Starting this year, the RMO has its own digital platform (www.rmo.com.mx), where the user has free access to articles published in both Spanish and English. It contains scientific contributions from throughout Latin America, Spain, Russia and Indonesia. The countries that contribute with more publications, in addition to Mexico, are Spain, Colombia, Cuba and Guatemala. Currently, we have a national editorial board that includes well-known doctors from all over the country, and the members of the international editorial board include renowned doctors from Canada, USA, Spain, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina and Ecuador. All this has led our journal to be included in the majority of international scientific search engines, such as SCOPUS, EMBASE, EXCERPTA, LILACS, PERIODICA and LATINDEX. In addition, it is a part of the direct access journals for all the members of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, together with journals such as *Ophthalmology*, *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, among others.

Remaining valid for so many years is, without a doubt, the result of the work of a large number of people, mainly the authors and readers of the journal. In addition, we had the opportunity to count with the leadership of important people for the editorial work and the great transcendent vision of all the Presidents of the *Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología*, who have always granted the greatest support so the journal could be published in a timely manner. We thank them and you, our readers and authors, and we hope to be up to date to deliver a journal that contributes to the advancement of Latin American ophthalmology and the visual health of our population.

Special thanks to those who with their effort and work have made the *Revista Mexicana de Oftalmología* the oldest journal in Latin America and a faithful representative of Ophthalmology in our Spanish language.

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