

Editorial

A journal about drugs and addictive behaviors of Colombia to the world

The main objective of scientific communication is the registration, evaluation, dissemination and accumulation of knowledge. The release and diffusion of knowledge is inherent in the nature and practice of science and, particularly and more rigorously, institutions of higher education, which have a social responsibility to promote, develop, publish and disperse research as a public good for the general use and benefit of society, a process which produces a positive impact on the development of science and innovation in the environment.

Scientific journals are the ultimate means by which the production of new knowledge is disseminated and they are generally aimed at experts and communities interested in a particular topic, allowing research results to be known, discussed and eventually accepted as scientific facts, which are thereafter integrated into the work of other researchers who appropriate them partially or completely, exercising, when required, a reasoned and justified critique.

Universities and their research groups often have their own publications, especially when they specialize in a particular topic. They do this, not just to make visible their expertise and publish their own work, but also to provide other researchers with opportunities to spread their production. Publications become most desirable when their impact rates, according to national or international rankings, reach the first quartile.

On the issue of addictions, there have been several journals in the international context. The most prestigious are: *Addiction*; *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*; *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*; *International Journal of Drug Policy*; *Addictive Behaviors*; *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*; *Drug and Alcohol Review*; *American Journal on Addictions*; *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*; *Journal of Addiction Medicine*; *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*; *Journal of Alcoholism & Drug Dependence*; *Substance Use & Misuse*; *Journal of Drug Issues*; *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention and Policy*; *The International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research*; *Alcohol and Alcoholism*; *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*; *Alcoholism and Drug Addiction*; *Drug and*

Alcohol Dependence; Journal of Substance Abuse; Research Journal of Drug Abuse; Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, and Addictive Behaviors. In Spain there are a number of leading journals: *Adicciones*; *Revista Española de Drogodependencias*; *Salud y Drogas*; and *Trastornos Adictivos*.

In Latin America there is not an extensive amount of scientific literature on the subject of drugs; among the few initiatives undertaken are: SMAD. *Revista Electrónica en Salud Mental, Alcohol y Drogas*, attached to the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil); and *Psicoactiva* linked to the Centre for Information and Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse -CEDRO- (Peru). Others have been proposals by government agencies responsible for drug policy. Such is the case of the *Revista Peruana de Drogodependencias*, published by DEVIDA and at a time, the *Revista de la Dirección Nacional de Estupefacientes de Colombia*, the latter being of a more informative nature.

In Colombia, the *Universidad Luis Amigó* Foundation -*Funlam*-, an institution with more than 30 years' experience in the Colombian context, has, ever since its inception, been concerned with the issue of drugs, the related problems and addictions. Funlam's work has not only been focused within the Masters, Specialization and graduate programs, but also in research and the dissemination of expert knowledge in this area.

Funlam's interest in communicating science on the subject of addiction, dates from the late 1990s, when under the auspices of the International Federation of Catholic Universities -FIUC-, it published the journal *Análisis*, an international scientific publication, written in three languages (Spanish, English and French), whose objective was to disseminate the main scientific findings and cultural knowledge available on the subject of drugs and related problems. All in all this journal published eight issues, including six thematic issues and two with a variety of articles related to addiction.

After a break of almost four years, which was taken to restructure its editorial objectives as well as its scientific and editorial committees, we are introducing the journal *Drugs and Addictive Behavior*, a scientific biannual publication, Mixed, which will publicize and disseminate high quality articles on the subject of addiction, written as a result of research or as the product of thoughtful, theoretical reflections that display both professional and disciplinary relevance, on fields such as psychology, pedagogy, social work, medicine and related areas.

Drugs and Addictive Behavior is therefore not a new journal. Rather, it is a publication that continues the work of the journal *Análisis* and fills the existing void of specialized publications on the subject of addiction in Colombia and Latin America, where the research, training and dissemination of knowledge on the subject are becoming increasingly necessary due to the high prevalence of drug use, not only of traditional substances such

as alcohol, snuff, marijuana, cocaine and derivatives, but also heroin and newly emerging drugs, expanding its spectrum to non-chemical dependencies. This morbidity also affects the mental health of societies and there is a need to investigate and publish on the topic.

Drugs and Addictive Behavior aims to become a journal of renowned scientific reference for all researchers and, it seeks to achieve the highest levels of impact, with the rigor adopted by the Scientific Committee, which follows the principles of the Consensus of Farmington, which governs all scientific journals published in the field of psychoactive substances and their associated problems.

We wish the journal a long life based on academic and scientific rigor.

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