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# EDITORIAL

## EDITORS AND REVIEWERS

Periodical publications are basic for the socialization of knowledge particularly in what refer to periodicals published by Universities, a primary place for generation of knowledge.

In the area of biological and health sciences there is a high speed of scientific production due to the increasing number of institutions and researchers involved in investigation as well as by the increasing fragmentation of knowledge in these areas. Therefore, there is a need for agility for periodical to maintain an editorial speed that could go along with this production.

Among the factors that compose the editorship of a periodical of this nature is the participation of *ad hoc* consultants, which is of utmost importance since it guarantee the peer review evaluation. Certainly, this concept has evolved and nowadays some periodicals allow authors to suggest names for reviewing their articles although the final decision remains to the editor. In the other hand, if the peer review is a basic rule, its operational aspect may be complex. This point in connection with the above mentioned editorial agility is a matter of the discussion that follows.

Certainly, editors want high quality reviews and these can only be produced by specialist highly qualified in the focused area. At the same time, this is the individual that, usually, has a tight agenda full of national and international appointments, which make difficult, if not impossible, to obtain a timely review.

Luckily, out of this restrict group of highly qualified scholars, there is a diversified and ample group of experts with enough expertise and academic integrity to produce adequate reviews. In this sense, the Lattes System from CNPq has been a valuable instru-

ment to editors in the selection of experts. The format of this system of curriculum allows the identification of experts in general areas as well as, in many cases, in more detailed levels of actuation, which makes easy the identification of reviewers for a particular article with high specificity.

There are many reasons for researcher to up date their curricula in the Lattes System and we can add one more – to maintain this system as an effective instrument for scientific editors to select experts in a given area. In fact, frequently, after the selection, editor face some difficulties to contact the expert due to lack of up-dated address, moving to another research institution or university and, even, retirement.

Back to the issue of editorial agility it is important to stress that, even not pertaining to the select group of scholars, these competent experts sometimes have also a congested agenda with undergraduate and graduation classes as well as their duties in the research laboratories. Therefore, the production of an article's review needs to play a more attractive role to them, which nowadays seems not to be the case. In fact, the function as *ad hoc* reviewers seem not to be appealing for research endowments institutions while evaluating their curricula for decision on scholarships or research grants. Taking into consideration the importance of such activity, not only to the editorial agility as well as to the quality of periodicals and the maintenance of the peer-review principle, it is suggested to research endowments institutions a careful revision on the criteria of value for this important activity in the field of research and knowledge diffusion – the anonymous world of *ad hoc* reviewers.

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