Editorial

Paulo E.C. Dantas, MD
Editor-in-Chief, PAAO

To follow virtue and knowledge

“Considerate la vostra semenza: fatti non foste a viver come bruti, ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza”.
(Consider your origin: you were not born to live like brutes, but to follow virtue and knowledge).

Dante Allighieri, The Divine Comedy (written between 1308-1321)

Taking on the role of Editor-in-Chief of Vision Pan-America (VPA) is a challenging assignment after a decade of an outstanding job, almost “with bare hands”, done by Dr. Mark J. Mannis, who is the current President of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology. Mark tried to improve and maintain high standards to promote the growth and success of VPA. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mark and thank him for his excellent services to the journal and this decade of legacy.

In this new journey, along with my dear friend and Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Lihteh Wu from Costa Rica, I will certainly face many challenging situations, but I am confident that all that I have learned from my professors, mentors, family and life will help me to perform my best in taking this journal to a new level.

As we continue to make strides in life, it is important to look back to honor and recognize those who have paved the way and gave us the essential sense to follow virtue and knowledge. My eternal recognition and thanks to Rubens Belfort Jr, Richard L. Abbott, Cristian Luco, Mark J. Mannis, Nelson Marques and Carlos Ramos Souza-Dias.

When authors are confronted with a variety of titles to choose from for the publication of their research, they look for accessibility, speed, reliability, exposition and diffusion of their ideas. For those reasons, as soon as I began my duties as Editor, my first challenge was to look for a reliable, accessible and fast editorial managing system. We came to an agreement with The Public Knowledge Project (PKP) that is operated through a partnership among the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia, the Simon Fraser University Library, the
School of Education at Stanford University, and the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing at Simon Fraser University.

Now, virtually, anyone with computer access in the world can submit scientific papers to Vision Pan-America through the URL http://journals.sfu.ca/paao.

In the same way, editors, reviewers and our managing staff (the incredible trio: Teresa Bradshaw, Terri Grassi and Mapy Padilla) can do all the work electronically. This is an impressive achievement that certainly will increment submissions and make VPA one excellent option for publishing.

Another noteworthy addition was to include a specific and strongly indicative subtitle to our journal. From now on, our journal will be known as Vision Pan-America, The Pan-American Journal of Ophthalmology. We think that this is a very strong branding, that also recognizes our targeted audience.

As you will notice, many layout changes were introduced to VPA. Short running head subtitles, disclaimer of proprietary interest, funding, date of submission and approval and other layout changes were introduced to deal with basic bibliometrics requirements, aimed at future indexation of our journal in scientific databases.

In face of a wide range of increasingly complex ethical issues in the editorial process, VPA will adopt a set of minimal standards of code of conducts, essentially based on the Code of Conducts and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE) (http://www.publicationethics.org). We also prepared new guidelines for authors and reviewers, mostly based on the orientations from extremely influential associations such as International Committee of Medical Journals Editors (ICMJE www.icmje.org), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME www.wame.org) and EQUATOR network (www.equator-network.org), to deal with contemporary questions on ethics and scientific publications.

We already started the process of submitting VPA to some of the most respected scientific databases and hope that, in the upcoming issues, we would come up with thrilling news about this special achievement.

In the meantime, I would like to invite researchers and colleagues from inside and outside the Americas to submit their scientific contributions to Vision Pan-America.

I would like also to take this moment to welcome the incoming Editorial Board, one of the brightest and prolific Editorial Board in The Americas, qualified by the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee from The National Library of Medicine as exceptionally good. I thank each of you in advance for your commitment.

As the new Editor-in-Chief of Vision Pan-America, The Pan-American Journal of Ophthalmology, I look forward to an exciting, challenging and fruitful time.

Success and bright future to VPA!

NOTE OF CORRECTION: Late introduction of an omitted author after paper publishing

Following the Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors issued by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), journal editors should consider issuing a correction note if the author/contributor list is incorrect (i.e. a deserving author has been omitted or somebody who does not meet authorship criteria has been included).

In the last issue of VPA Vol X No.4 Dic 2011, the paper Complicaciones de la Válvula de Ahmed con Mitomicina C, en un Caso de Glaucoma Congénito published on page 118 to 122, had the name of first author unintentionally omitted. We apologize for that mistake and acknowledge that the correct list of authors is:

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