

EDITORIAL

Current status of scientific publishing in Latam and Peru: challenges and opportunities

Estado actual de las publicaciones científicas en Latam y Perú: desafíos y oportunidades

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By 2020, GLOBOCAN estimated 19.3 million new cases and 10 million cancer deaths worldwide, noting a growing trend in both incidence and prevalence of cancer cases, accompanied by a detrimental impact on life expectancy. The latter, related to several risk factors, most of them connected with socioeconomic development, such as globalization and economic growth ⁽¹⁾. Likewise, in Latin America and The Caribbean there are 1.5 million new cancer cases and 700,000 cancer deaths calculated annually ⁽²⁾.

Additionally, a better understanding of cancer biology has been demonstrated to help predict therapy responses and outcomes to reduce the cancer burden; however, this cannot entirely explain the differences between populations, especially vulnerable ones like those in Latin American countries. Moreover, there is a scarcity of scientific publications in Latin America, compared with other regions ^(3,4). Therefore, the growing incidence and mortality, joined by a lack of understanding of cancer biology in vulnerable populations, and the lack of studies in Latin America are the main challenges that we are facing nowadays.

To overcome these challenges, efforts have been made to produce and disseminate the scientific knowledge that is being generated overseas, especially in developing countries, and to make them available to the scientific community around the world. However, to date, most publications on cancer research come from developed countries. Cabral et al. reported that the United States (32.7%) and China (24.5%) were the countries with the highest scientific production, followed by Japan, Germany and Italy ⁽⁵⁾.

According to SCImago Journal & Country Rank (SJR), a platform that provides a series of quality indicators to evaluate scientific journals and publications, no Latin American journal has been ranked within the 50 positions worldwide that generates a high impact, influence, prestige, H index and bibliographic reference ⁽⁶⁾.

Latin America has achieved a growth of 9% in publications between the period 2000-2018, being Brazil the country with the highest scientific production in oncology (41.8%), followed by Mexico (16.6%) and Argentina (12.9%). Meanwhile, the lowest production countries were Cuba (3.79%), Peru (3.22%) and Ecuador (1.9%) (Figure 1). In addition to this, Brazil had the highest number of citations, while Argentina and Uruguay had the highest average number of citations per article ⁽⁴⁾. Despite this, these numbers are still low compared to North America, Europe and Asian countries ⁽³⁾.



Source: Ruiz-Patiño, 2020. *Scientific publications in cancer: In Latin-America, strong scientific networks increase productivity (The TENJIN study).*

Figure 1. Scientific production in the Oncology field in Latin America between 2000-2018.

In Peru, the lack of an indexed journal specialized in cancer research does not only allow for the dissemination of research worldwide, but the recognition of the authors at a local, regional and global level. Moreover, another important aspect that prevents having a scientific production in our country is that many national authors choose to publish at indexed international journals that have scientific prestige, editorial committee reputation, advisory board, experience and easy access to the published data; thus perpetuating the lack of publications at the local level.

Given the above, the *Onkoresearch Journal* was founded with the impetus of allowing Latin American investigators to publish articles that have the highest standards of quality research, scientific and ethical integrity. We believe the development of such journals will also strengthen and stimulate scientific production in Latin America. Furthermore, this journal will allow the assessment of clinical, pathological and molecular factors, interactions amongst them and their impact on survival. Consequently, this publication aims at improving prognostication and identifying new approaches to enhance outcomes and survivorship in Latin American patients suffering from cancer. Likewise, its use as a tool for scientific discussions will incentivize greater investment and promotion of new directions and public policies in cancer research.

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