



# Archivos de Bronconeumología

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## Editorial

## Farewell, Forever Friends

## Hasta siempre

*Wanderer, your footsteps are the road, and nothing more;  
Wanderer, there is no road, the road is made by walking!*  
Antonio Machado (Songs)

Allow me to take my leave with some lines from Machado. I have always carried them in my mind—they have been my guide, always remembered, even at the very beginning. Now, at the end of long working days, after months and years of editing our journal, I want to set them down in writing. Nothing can be better than looking back for a moment at work accomplished. The passage of time carries with it the actions of our predecessors, the seeds of the great drive to join the Science Citation Index, the first “impact factors,” international contributions (especially from Latin America) and the English edition, the many monographs, the Tuesday meetings with the editorial team, the scientific and economic hardships, collaborations with other journals with the same publisher, old and new publishers, so very many hours of talk and discussion...

And as time passes, so people move on. To have known and worked with José Antonio Dotú, a true gentleman among publishers; Javier Ruiz, master of excellence; Josep Lluís Segú and Antonio Gasull, always alert to new developments; Joan Juan and José Alonso, directly responsible for the new “Elsevier era” and firm friends always; Ana Lorén and Antoni Donate (when will there be an addition to the family?); José A. Mena, exemplary service, courtesy, and correctness; Enric Brotons, always on the quest for a new client. And the previous editors, with whom I had the good fortune to work: Federico Manresa, Juan Ruiz, Miguel Perpiñá; my editorial colleagues: J. Luis Álvarez-Sala, César Picado, José M. Marín. And Mary Ellen Kerans, with whom I still have the good fortune to share the tasks of revising and adapting English versions.

I am also deeply grateful to those of you who have shared this last period with me. I mean, of course, Toni (Xaubet), Fran (García Río), and Ester (Barreiro). True friends, of a kind you don't find any more:

friendship forged by close cooperation, by the sustained exchange of ideas and plans and shared goal of our cherished *Archivos*.

A Catalan priest and poet in the 17th century—a poor vintage for men of letters—put these words in the mouth of an apprentice altar boy: “Where do you come from, where are you going, what is your name, and who do you belong to?” I could also ask these questions of our *Archivos de Bronconeumología*. The answers to the last two are easy: the name, though long, extravagant and not a bit practical, will not be changed (the price would be too high) and besides, the child has a father and mother (its owners and guardians). The answer to where we come from is also clear: we were born out of an interminable night that finally reached full-term with a brilliant birth, our triumphal entry onto the platforms for international citation. The details of the story have already been told, sometimes even in our special issues. And as for where we are we going, our course leads us toward a splendid future, where the ever-interesting numbers game of impact measures must stand alongside the quality of the published product, national and international recognition and presence, and esteem wherever pulmonology uses the Spanish language. Let us hope that we will soon see the day when an article can be enjoyed for its true clinical impact or the overwhelming importance of the information it brings regardless of its “impact factor.”

Finally, I express my heartfelt farewell and give you my word that you will always be in my thoughts, and my pledge to continue to collaborate in any way the Society of Pulmonology and Thoracic Surgery (SEPAR) may propose. Just one parting wish: that those who continue to lead the journal may benefit from all the cooperation I have had the good fortune to find in all of you—the true architects of the position *Archivos de Bronconeumología* continues to hold as, by far, the best pulmonology journal published in Spanish.

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1. Translator's note: This rendering is taken from *Proverbs and Songs, Selected Poems of Antonio Machado*, translated by Betty Jean Craige (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1978).

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