

## Editor's Comment

*Medwave* 2013;13(11):e5870 doi: 10.5867/medwave.2013.11.5871

# 2013 in review – pleased and proud

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**Citation:** Bachelet VC. . *Medwave* 2013;13(11):e5870 doi: 10.5867/medwave.2013.11.5871

**Publication date:** 27/12/2013

We are pleased. We may not have achieved all of the goals we would have wanted, but we feel we are moving ahead in consolidating and developing the *Journal* in a long-term perspective. 2013 has been a good year.

To begin with, our permanent editorial staff has finally settled down. Its members are Felipe Martínez, research editor; Felipe Cardemil, reviews editor; Consuelo Salas, manuscript and peer review coordinator; Elena Lagos, technical editor; and Rodrigo Núñez, web publisher. The Chilean editorial board has also been active, providing great ideas, vision and support.

Let us begin with the number of published articles. As shown in Figure 1, in 2012 *Medwave* published a particularly large number of articles – 130 in all – equivalent to roughly 12 articles per number. That year several thematic issues appeared and specific contributions were solicited, as shown in Figure 2. In contrast, we will close 2013 with an average of nearly eight articles per number, which is considerably less.

At the beginning of this year, the editors decided to reduce the number of commissioned articles, and this explains the drop in published articles. We felt that the *Journal's* contents should truly reflect authors' engagement and interests. This fact, together with a higher rejection rate, lead to a smaller monthly output. We believe that publishing 110 articles in a year is the optimum number and we are striving to achieve this in the future.

As was mentioned above, there has been a significant change in the rate of rejection. When we applied for MEDLINE inclusion in February 2012, we stated a rejection rate of 36% (Figure 3); now, however, we will end the year with a rejection rate approaching 50%. This is desirable and the explanation lies in the greater demands for quality scientific reporting that we expect from our authors, and to the fact that we adhere to Equator-Network guidelines. Equator-Network seeks to enhance the quality, transparency and accuracy of biomedical reports.

Figure 4 shows that the better quality of published manuscripts is also related to the version in which they are accepted. The figure shows that only 7.7% of articles

are accepted in version 1, while 93.3% are accepted in versions 2 or more. Previously<sup>1</sup> we have said that we seek to be rigorous in the methodological revision of manuscripts and we certainly take into account reviewer comments.

Where do our authors come from? As we see in Figure 5, they come from many different countries of the region, but also from Spain. Outstanding contributors: Chile, Mexico and Cuba.

When we became a peer-reviewed journal back in 2010, we claimed that the majority of our articles were peer-reviewed. Now we can say that the great majority are – 86.5% in 2013. Only editorials are not sent out for review. Thus, we publish even essays and opinion pieces if reviewers and handling editors suggest merit and pertinence. *Medwave* is open to all sorts of articles, ranging from primary studies to analysis and clinical reviews that contribute to the daily practice of medicine. This editorial position will not change in the future since it is consistent with our mission to help decision makers, be they policy experts or clinicians.

*Medwave's* peer reviewers are also fully international. The *Journal* only exceptionally requests editorial board members to perform peer review, contrary to what happens in many smaller biomedical journals. Thus, our peer review process is effectively external and we have a database comprised of over 300 reviewers with methodological and thematic expertise in different areas of medicine and allied disciplines. They are the backbone of quality and pertinence control for every manuscript submitted. Their comments and views are valuable and valued by the handling editors. They donate their time for no financial retribution driven only by their commitment to strengthening scientific exchange in our Region. In a related article (doi: [10.5867/medwave.2013.11.5869](https://doi.org/10.5867/medwave.2013.11.5869)) and on behalf of the editorial team, Felipe Cardemil expresses our appreciation to our reviewers for this devoted and indispensable task.

Anyone who is looking to submit a manuscript must be able to know in advance how long his or her journal of interest takes in reaching a final decision. Shall I have to wait for a year? Nine months? Journals should disclose their lead times, essential indicators for academic authors

looking to reach publishing targets. In addition, if the decision is rejection, please let me know as soon as possible in order to resubmit to another journal.

Figure 8 shows *Medwave's* indicators. The curve drops sharply after April, which is when we adopted continuous publication of articles as they ready from the copyediting process<sup>2</sup>. This decision was key in overhauling our lead times. Before, time from submission to publication was on average 100 days, and 38 days from acceptance to publication, which dropped to 74 and 11, respectively, after adoption of continuous publication. Thus, once the author is informed of acceptance, she will wait 11 days on average for her paper to be published. During this period, technical editing, copyediting and final approval by the editor-in-chief occurs, before sending the PDF for final author checking.

At the end of the day, our authors know that article publication in *Medwave* will occur, if accepted, within a three-month period after submission. Many international journals seek to achieve this high standard.

We have many more things to tell, no doubt. Nevertheless, let us leave some surprises for the early 2014 editorials. Readers will discover novelties that will continue to raise the bar of our *Journal*, to increase its international outreach, and to strengthen its pertinence for professional practice. Therefore, for now, all that is left is to wish you a very Happy New Year.



## Notes

### Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest with the present article.

## Referencias

1. Bachelet VC. Medwave, electronic biomedical peer reviewed journal. *Medwave* 2011 Abr;11(04):e5013 | [CrossRef](#) |
2. Bachelet VC, Cardemil F. Medwave adopts continuous publication. *Medwave* 2013;13(3):e5649 | [CrossRef](#) |

Figures

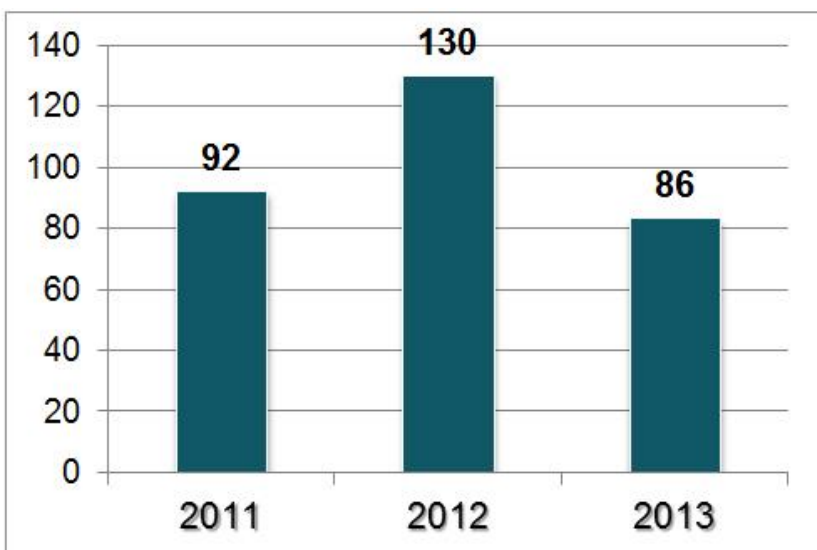


Figure 1. Number of published articles per year.

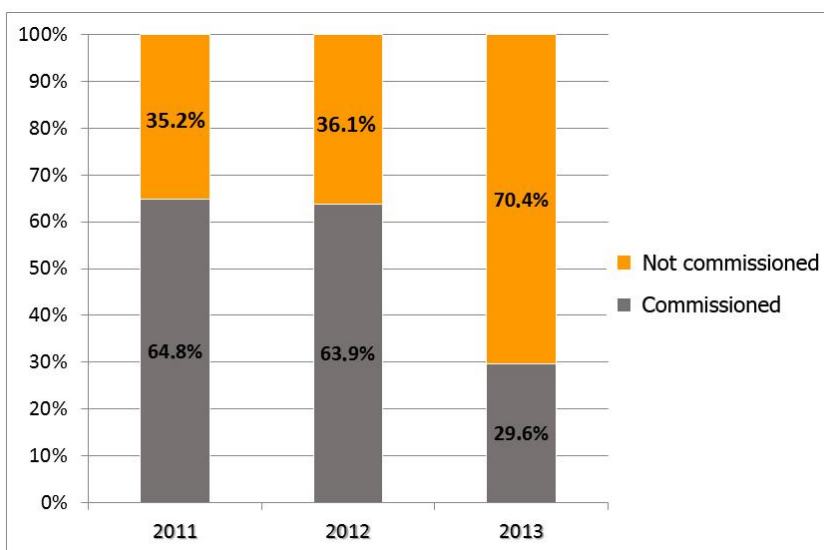
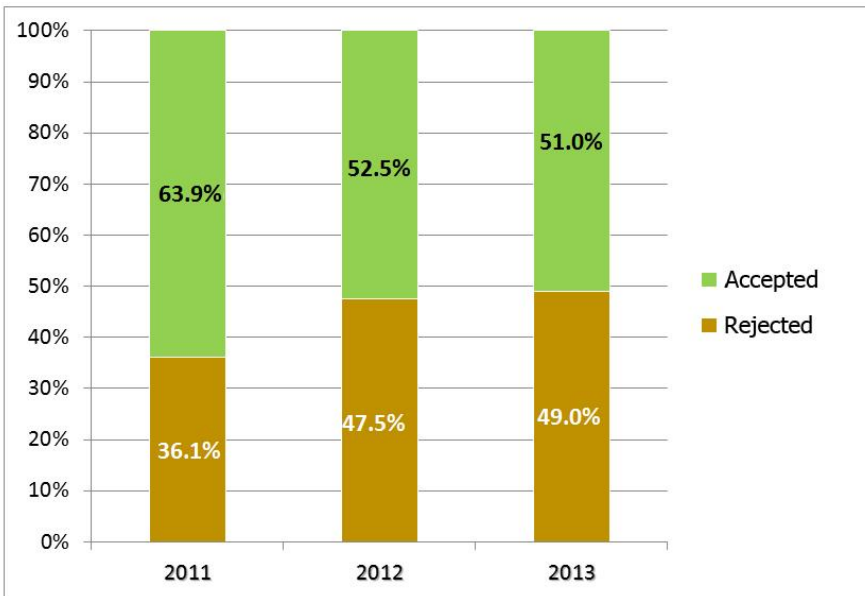
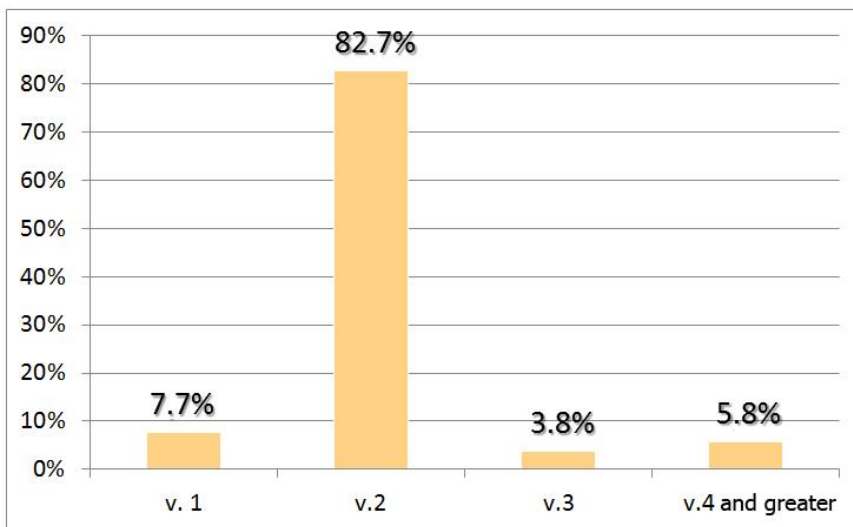


Figure 2. Commissioned versus not commissioned articles.



**Figure 3.** Rates of manuscript acceptance and rejection.



**Figure 4.** Version of accepted manuscript.

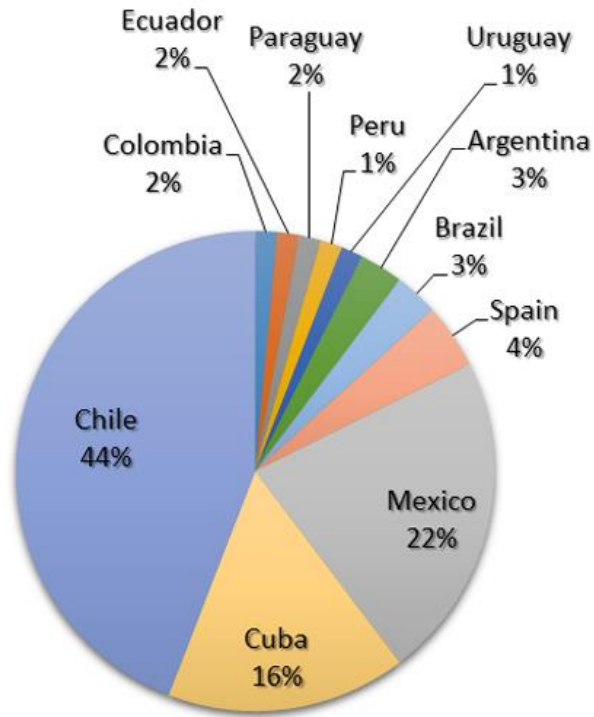


Figure 5. Country of origin of authors.

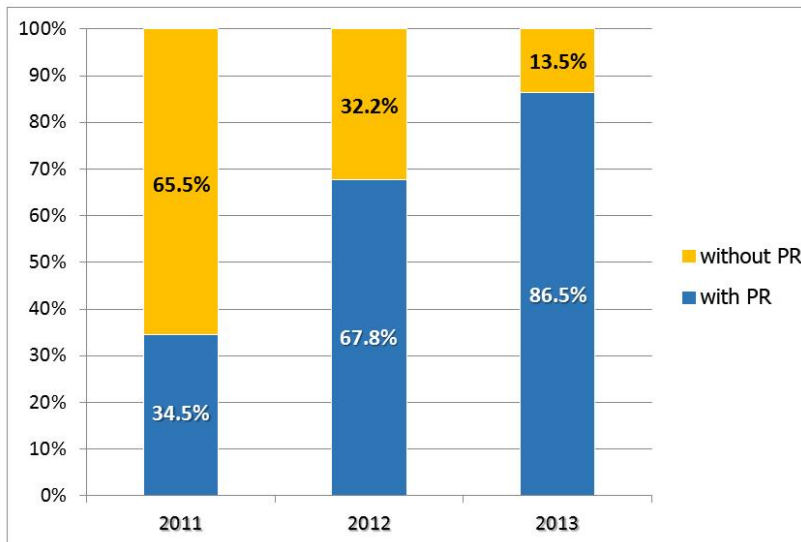


Figure 6. Proportion of articles with peer review (PR) and without.

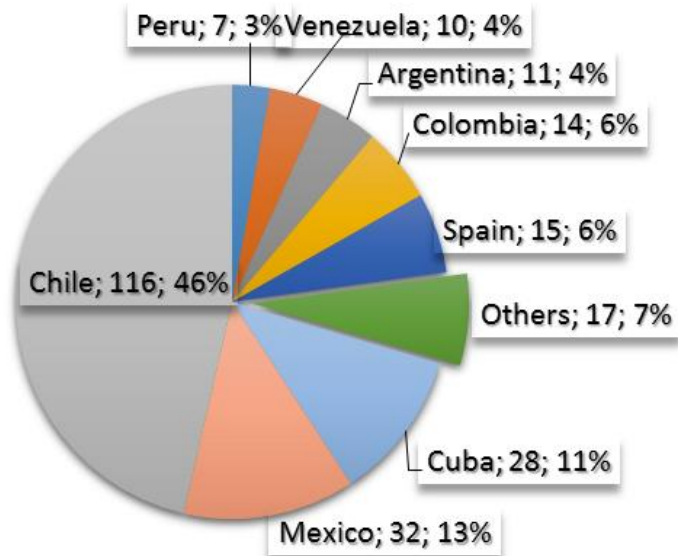


Figure 7. Country of origin of external peer reviewers.

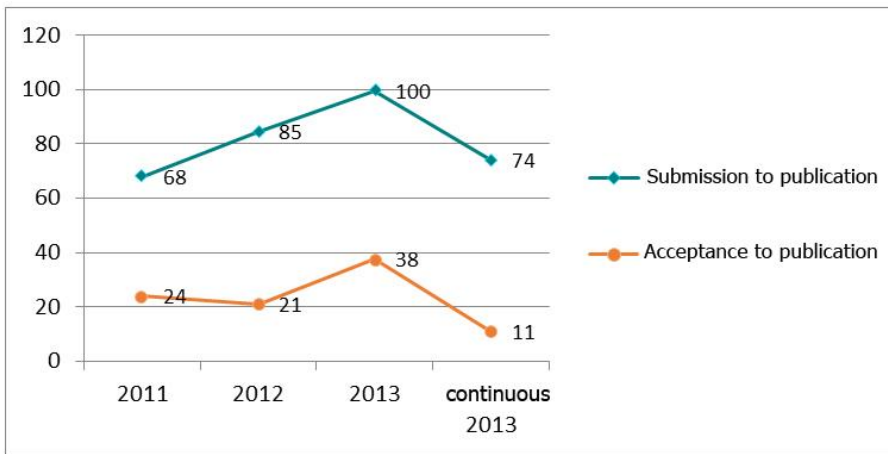


Figure 8. Days from submission to publication, and from acceptance to publication.



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