



The magazine “Medicina Interna” emerges in the sequence of a proposal made by a group of colleagues to the Board of the Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine (SPMI – Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina Interna).

The basis for such proposal is simple: as there are in Portugal a high number of internists who resisted the appeal of medical sub-specialties while taking an active part in congresses and seminars, it seemed to be the right moment to create an editorial space where they could publish their scientific production.

If such objective, on its own, justifies the effort and risk of taking forward this project, it would not be enough if one would like to stop here. As a matter of fact, we understand that a medical magazine should also have, through its approach, an important pedagogic role.

We all know and it is not worthy to hide the fact, that a significant part of all medical papers sent to be published have almost no interest or a very limited one, among other reasons because they do not comply with the rules set up a long time ago and to which all scientific papers must comply with. It is not the moment to evaluate the causes for this situation that deserves to be reflected upon, but through a demanding editorial position, we aim to act from the start in a correcting capacity in order to improve the scientific production of the Portuguese internists.

Another purpose of this magazine is the very essence of Internal Medicine. As a mother specialty for all clinical activity, it is performed through a specific cultural approach which is far from being the Internist exclusive property. Thus, it is the appropriate space for all who would like to reflect upon issues linked to the profession, whether in the perspective of the past, whether in an anticipation of the future. The magazine “Medicina Interna” will be therefore open to different views, and it aims to encourage the debate attracting the cooperation of all doctors, regardless of their activity area.

It is not the first time that SPMI has its own editorial body. Shortly after being found in 1952, it has published every year and for 10 years the “Boletim da Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina Interna”. To read again the several issues of this Boletim is a double pleasure not only revisiting some of the people who made a difference in the Portuguese Medicine in a recent past, but also for verifying the high level of almost all papers. At the moment, in which this publication is started, I have no doubt that Internists of today are the worthy followers of those who preceded them and the “Medicina Interna” will be an expressive manifestation of their vitality and skill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mendes'.