Editorial

With this issue MBC's *Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters* also becomes the journal of the European Burns Association, EBA.

Originally called the "Annals of the Mediterranean Burns Club", the first issue was published in 1988 with the following foreword: "The birth of a new journal is always a significant event in the scientific community: it may reflect the desire to embark upon a new course or it may represent the culmination of a long-term commitment of which it now becomes a concrete testimony. The Annals, in the minds of its proponents, is intended to be the synthesis of both these elements: a stimulus and a commitment for those who wanted and now enthusiastically support the Mediterranean Burns Club, the awareness that what they are doing represents a course that is already well established. To reach these aims *Annals* must be the voice of all MBC members, a testimony of what they discuss in their meetings, the door to offer hospitality for exchange of views within and with the Club".

In 1995, the journal was renamed *Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters* to emphasize the focus on burns as an individual medical problem, as well as a wider social issue, in relation to disasters caused by fire.

Current analysis allows us to conclude that the objectives have been fully achieved: for the past thirty years, the journal has been the living voice of scientific development, specialization and professional cooperation in the Mediterranean countries, particularly those in North Africa. It has provided an open door through which those from outside are able to make comparisons; it is a dissemination tool, promoting integration and scientific development of international scope.

In 2005, consensus for this view was reflected in the journal's entry onto PubMed and SCOPUS.

And in 2012, EBA's request to adopt the *Annals* as their official organ, including direct participation on the editorial and advisory board, will contribute further to the validity of the journal's scientific content by offering a broader view of the issues associated with burns pathology. This association will further provide a more European cultural and scientific boost in support of cooperation for common and concrete action to help those in the developing world, as well as confirming the effectiveness of the *Annals* as an informative and scientific medium, open to anyone with an interest in the many aspects of burns-related disease.

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