

Editorial

A scientific magazine resembles in many ways to other types of printed publication. In order to produce it, it is necessary to organize the agenda, to select texts, to ordain, edit and to review them. However, differently to what happens in leisure magazines, each of these stages flows under specific circumstances, since a scientific publication, in addition to informing, it must qualify and evaluate the information – considering that scientific communication is not disposable and that it tends to be perennial even when information itself has been updated by new knowledge or discoveries. Each published article becomes part of the state of art on that topic, building the framework of knowledge in science.

One remarkable difference that derives from the obligation to qualify and evaluate information appears in agenda organization as the set of article in each issue is taken from the roll of works, which authors send spontaneously. Each part is organized from what gets to our hands, from the work of these bioethics researchers and scholars who want to share the findings of their investigation. This implies that the thematic dealt are previously chosen by them in their research projects or reflections regarding the ethical dilemmas experienced in society. Therefore, editors' autonomy and of the Editorial board of a scientific publication is restricted when compared to what is possible in a leisure and information magazine, which selects their subjects and topics among any of the social life events.

The qualification and validation process of published studies, indispensable to give scientific credibility to printed material, abides to internationally defined parameters, establishing that each article be analyzed both by editors and, particularly, by three members of the magazine Editorial Board, and considered suitable for publication if it is accepted by, at least, two of those counselors. When dealing with a specific topic, regarding to which none of the board members is fully qualified to attest the validity of information, it is resorted to ad hoc opinion from specialists in that particular area. In order to occur validation, each published article – necessarily - should be approved by peers, thus, ensuring that information are pertinent and legitimate.

In practice, this means that each study made available to readers has been submitted to screening by the Bioética Magazine Editorial board specialists' or by invited experts – who read it attentively, reflect on its content and analyse its features according to conceptual,

logical and formal criteria. Next, they prepare an opinion, detailing the status of evaluated article. If it is to be published, or it needs changes by the authors to rectify or improve any of these features or, still, if it should be refused for not meeting the thematic line of the magazine, incurring in formal faults (concerning conceptual presentation or logical structure) and, even, for not presenting academic format or language.

To have a precise idea on what implies fulfilling such requirements in organizing an issue of *Revista Bioética*, it should be remembered that, in average, each issue has fifteen articles. Therefore, it infers that each issue needs, at least, 45 peer evaluations, considering in this estimate a favorable scenario of approval of all articles submitted to evaluation, and planned for a specific issue. In the event of refusal of any article in the screening or withdraw of article by authors in view of opinions, this number increases (obviously in the proportion of three evaluations per article), may arriving, in extreme cases, at getting 54 or even 60 opinions to comprise one single issue. This hardworking process, which requires accurate coordination and logistics, is indispensable so the reader is assured that each published work is effectively scientific, independently of authors' presented, or advocated perspective. Also, this implies in authors' patience who sometimes need to wait for months for publishing their works as well as constant effort and dedication by Editorial board members who regularly contribute to implement this process.

Such circumstance is crucial so this class of publication rigorously comply with its role, qualifying scientific production through its editorial process. That is exactly what *Revista Bioética* does. To bring, at every issue, unpublished works to its readers from those who dedicate themselves in this field of study. We hope, thus, to contribute in its reflection continuously.

Gerson Zafalon Martins and Dora Porto

Editors