The School of Medicine of the University of Navarra is pleased to announce the birth of a journal conceived to enable its students to communicate their works to the whole scientific community. Behind this simple statement of purpose lies a series of reasons and ideas that we would like to present so that you, the students, can better share with us the enthusiasm we feel about this new project.

The journal takes over from the Revista de la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Navarra, founded in 1957, and we have the duty to continue and the responsibility to maintain the work and the tradition initiated by our predecessors. Improvement of student training through introduction to inspiring biomedical research was always a priority for our predecessors, and will be the cornerstone of the new publication. To accomplish this goal we will pursue the following two objectives.

First, international scope. This is why the entire contents will be presented in the English language, and in an on-line format. We will strive to get the journal included in the Science Citation Index (SCI), which will make us truly visible so that the international scientific community is aware of the research that you, the students, are carrying out.

Second, we would like the objective of being included among the journals indexed by the SCI to act as a stimulus for the students to boost the quality of their research. In fact, we consider the journal to be a vehicle to help us all make a leap forward in the quality of the research currently carried out in the School of Medicine. This development, not easy but stimulating, should involve everybody belonging to the Faculty.

Teachers, physicians and researchers, without whom the existence of this publication would not be possible, are invited to challenge their students with more ambitious projects and guide and help them in research good enough to capture the interest of the international scientific community. Remember, also, that reinforcement and continuous growth of research is essential for the University of Navarra.

Students are invited to embrace the opportunity to start their careers not just as physicians but also as medical researchers. The concept that the role of the doctor can be restricted exclusively to attending to patients is surely no longer generally valid in the 21st century. The new publication will foster your research experience but will also make your results available to leading researchers all over the world.

For all these reasons, we encourage physicians, bench researchers and students to establish closer communication in order to delineate increasingly better projects. If together we can successfully make this work, the journal will be a powerful instrument to prepare better doctors as well as to help position our Faculty at the highest levels of biomedical research.

Dr. Secundino Fernández González, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Navarra

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