

# Letter to the Editor

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Doctor Jaime Alvarado B.  
Editor  
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Colombian Association of Gastroenterology (ACG)

Dear Dr. Alvarado:

Please allow me to express my appreciation for the scientific quality of the Colombian Journal of Gastroenterology that you lead. Regarding the editorial, *30 years of the Colombian Journal of Gastroenterology*, written by Dr. Paulo E. Archila and published in Volume 31 No 4, I would like to add some complementary considerations in my capacity as a member of the boards of directors of the Colombian Association of Gastroenterology (GCA) elected from 1991 to 2005 which directly influenced the reforms approved and their further development.

Between 1995 and 1997, under the presidency of Dr. Eduardo de Lima, an investment was made to ensure publication of the Journal. It had seen some financial difficulties in the 1999-2001 period with Dr. Jaime Campos and editor Fernando Sierra that were related to excessive autonomy of the commercial director from the board of directors. That allowed the commercial director to negotiate advertising with the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, there was a lack of regulation that would determine, among other things, the choice of the editor and the functions of existing committees. In the period 2001-2003, when I presided over the board of directors, I accompanied the editor, Fernando Sierra, as a priority. As corroborated in the President's Notes, which appeared in Volume 18 No 3 of September 2003, decisions were taken to ensure that the publisher devoted himself fully to the scientific-academic functions disconnected from financial tasks. These included work to obtaining economic resources and management of a checking and CD account. These tasks were Delegated, as required by the tax reviewer, to the financial director of the ACG but in no way aimed to limit the autonomy of the Journal. Internal regulations of the Journal that determined the appointment of the editor and the editor's term in office were approved. They also established functions of the various committees, negotiation of fees and rates with the pharmaceutical industry by the president and the board of directors, determined contractual conditions with

the publishing company including marketing and distribution of the Journal, and determined issues of copy editing and English translation.

With the assistance of Dr. Sierra, sections such as the Epidemiological Corner, The Expert's Practice and The Foreign Guest were established. We also added publication of the institutional clinical case which were based on the successful bimonthly activity of the clinical case presented by residents of the then existing gastroenterology services in this country.

In my opinion, once the internal regulations of the Journal had been approved, the successful decisions made by the presidents and their boards of directors with the

help of their respective editors have given the publication an administrative order and economic solidity with undeniable results. Today, we have a magazine of recognized scientific level that meets the demanding requirements for indexing in Lilacs and Scielo and the promotion to category B of Publindex.

I appreciate your kind attention.

**Dr. Óscar O. González Vega**

Former president  
Colombian Association of Gastroenterology