

Editorial

By the end of 2025, Revista Universidad y Salud, published by the University of Nariño, organized an event aimed at discussing “editorial experiences in Ibero-America.” The invitation extended to the Editors-in-Chief of Cadernos de Saúde Pública (CSP) was immediately accepted. The proposal resonated closely with CSP’s ongoing reflections on the issue of internationalization⁽¹⁾.

It is widely accepted that science advances through dialogue among peers and with society. But who are these peers? Where does the science produced in Brazil or Colombia find its meeting place? This is the essential question: where and how does this encounter take place? Dialogue among scientists—whether from Brazil, Colombia, or North America—is shaped and constrained by the forces that govern the production and funding of scientific knowledge. The publication of research findings in journals and books is one stage in the broader process of producing and disseminating knowledge.

In principle, authors are free to choose where to publish their research. In practice, however, this decision is influenced by several factors. Many researchers seek journals with a high impact factor, partly because publication in such outlets is believed to provide greater visibility for their work, and partly because funding agencies and academic evaluation systems place considerable value on this indicator.

Yet a journal’s impact factor essentially measures how often articles published in that journal have been cited in recent years by papers appearing in journals indexed in the same databases⁽²⁾. It is a model that tends to reinforce concentration—the familiar logic of “the rich get richer.” In this context, it is worth reflecting on the issue of language. How much knowledge fails to circulate when English is accepted as the sole language of science?⁽³⁾.

We are currently witnessing an attack on science, which has the United States as one of its main epicenters. The drastic cuts in government funding for research

have a particularly strong impact on the health field, including international collaborations, and are being felt in research worldwide⁽⁴⁾.

Under these circumstances, it is imperative to reconsider what internationalization means. In the prevailing model of knowledge production, science produced in countries of the “Global South” is marked by subordination and is often regarded as having little relevance to major scientific debates⁽¹⁾. This is, of course, also true for journals published in these countries. What do we seek from the internationalization of scientific journals, particularly in the fields of health and public health? We seek journals that serve as vehicles for knowledge produced throughout the world, without exception. Moreover, we seek to strengthen countries where scientific production remains incipient. Cooperation among institutions, scientists, and journals should be grounded in mutual respect and solidarity.

Keywords: Public health; Periodical; Science and Technology information network; South-south Cooperation.

Sustainable development goals: Good health and well-being; Reduced inequalities; Partnerships for the goals.

Consent of publication: All authors reviewed and approved the final version for publication in the journal.

REFERENCES

1. Carvalho MS, Lima LDD, Alves LC. Internationalization of scientific publishing in a multipolar world. Cad Saúde Pública [Internet]. 2025; 41(5):e00067325. DOI: 10.1590/0102-311xen067325
2. Carvalho MS, Travassos C, Coeli CM. Scientific research assessment under discussion. Cad Saúde Pública [Internet]. 2013; 29(7):1269-1271. DOI: 10.1590/S0102-311X2013000700001
3. Panko B. English is the language of science. That isn’t always a good thing. Smithsonian Magazine [Internet]. 2017 Ene 2 [citado 2024 Abr 10]. Disponible en: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/english-language-science-can-cause-problems-180961623>
4. Choi J. Trump’s move to slash research funding shakes medical community. The Hill [Internet]. 2025 Feb 13 [citado 2026 Jun 2].