

# The 75 Years of RBC and the Challenge of Open Science

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*Os 75 Anos da RBC e o Desafio da Ciência Aberta*

*Los 75 Años de RBC y el Desafío de la Ciencia Abierta*

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The *Revista Brasileira de Cancerologia* (RBC) is a milestone in scientific editing in the area of cancer control in Brazil. Its history started in 1941 after the issue of Decree-Law number 3,643, dated September 23, 1941<sup>1</sup>, which created the National Cancer Service and a cancerology scientific journal at the former National Department of Health of the Ministry of Education and Health. Nevertheless, only in 1947 the first edition came to light with the purpose of divulging knowledge in cancerology to the scholar community. Of the journals published at that time, RBC issued not only scientific articles and case reports but also theme-related news, press material for congresses and seminars, Q&A (questions and answers) sections, complete addresses of the Ministry of Health in events on cancer and public health, further to notices about financial funding of researches<sup>2</sup>.

As time went by, RBC grew in importance and worth and the Editorial Board was created in August 1968 to put together guidelines and agenda of the upcoming editions. Until then, the journal counted only with permanent writers. In 1982, for more visibility, the journal was indexed at the database Latin American and Caribbean in Health Sciences (LILACS). Notwithstanding its editorial betterment and having stepped up to be a great vehicle of scientific communication in cancerology in the country, few advances in attempting a wider internationalization and indexation occurred at other databases until 2017.

In 2018, critical changes were implemented at RBC to support the incorporation of better editorial and scientific practices. The journal started to be published in English and Portuguese and branching out to social medias as effective tools to disclose scientific knowledge with the creation of its profile at *Facebook* and *Twitter*, with a simple and straightforward approach to promote the scientific translation to the society. An *Instagram* profile was created later.

Based in the Agenda 2030<sup>3</sup>, RBC implemented in 2019 the electronic platform Open Journal Systems (OJS), began to attribute the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to its articles and adhered to *Rede de Serviços de Preservação Digital Cariniana* of the *Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia* (Ibict). In this same year, the printed version was discontinued and since volume 65, the continuous publication was adopted.

Currently, it is a quarterly multidisciplinary, scientific, open access, cost-free journal and edited by *Coordenação de Ensino* (Coens) of the National Cancer Institute (INCA), an entity of the Ministry of Health responsible for the development and coordination of integrated actions to prevent and control cancer in Brazil.

RBC publishes and divulges manuscripts related to every area of cancerology focused to cancer prevention and control in Portuguese, English and Spanish with articles available online since 1995 at INCA's site, at the portal of *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior* (Capes) and Virtual Health Library (BVS) for Cancer Prevention and Control. In the future it will be possible to visualize all the editions since its first volume because of the digitalization project. The number of articles published by RBC is increasing every year. In 2022, 100 full articles and four editorials will have been published, 17% greater than 2021 (85 articles) and nearly 60% (62 articles) more than 2020. Last year, the abstracts and full articles published by RBC were accessed 70 thousand times.

RBC's editorial advances have consolidated the publication as a reference journal in cancerology across its many dimensions and broadening the access to national and international knowledge and strengthening the National Health System (SUS)<sup>4</sup>.

Having the mission to disseminate scientific knowledge and stimulate the reflection and debate about cancerology-related themes, cancer prevention and control, RBC supports the scientific development of Brazilian and foreign

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investigators, health professionals and students in addition to contributing to the formulation of evidences-based public policies, fulfilling its commitment with the health of the Brazilian population.

Today, RBC is indexed at the databases LILACS, *Sistema Regional de Información en Línea para Revistas Científicas de América Latina, el Caribe, España y Portugal* (Latindex); *Sumários de Revistas Brasileiras* (Sumários.org); *Directorio de Políticas Editoriais das Revistas Científicas Brasileiras* (Diadorim) and Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ). Google Scholar and Elsevier's PlumX Metrics are the bibliometric indicators utilized.

The journal follows the international norms and recommendations of scientific editing with peer review, Editorial Board and extensive list of *ad hoc* reviewers who analyze the manuscripts submitted. In addition, it utilizes iThenticate, antiplagiarism software available for journals associated to the *Associação Brasileira de Editores Científicos* (Abec).

Along its 75 years of life, the journal endeavored to improve the editorial processes and incorporate the concept of plurality of themes and methodological approaches produced about cancer control. It stands out the development of actions of early detection of cancer, improvement of the treatment and expansion of the offer of palliative care, further to strategies of prevention of risk factors (behavioral, environmental and occupational) and basic, clinical, translational and epidemiological investigation. Few are the journals of that nature with such longevity in our mean.

RBC encourages the open access and information sharing, adopting the Attribution 4.0 International – Creative Commons<sup>®</sup> License (CC-BY) in addition to disclosing data at acknowledged repositories as the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) and voluntary sharing of the peer-review process. The support to practices of Open Science<sup>5</sup> nowadays is clearly an international initiative that advocates the transparency of the process of submission of manuscripts, of the databases of the clinical trials as a new format to disclose science to make knowledge accessible and reproducible for the benefit of the society.

The advances RBC has managed to engineer have become a benchmark for other Brazilian public institutions. In October of this year, the journal's staff was approached by two institutes to disclose its experience and functioning of the platform OJS – of submission and management of articles. Furthermore, RBC working staff is contributing to the formation of future investigators with classes about editorial flow. These actions reflect the maturity of the journal and its full adherence to the practices of Open Science.

We are grateful to the team and members of the Editorial Board, *ad hoc* reviewers, authors and readers of RBC for their invaluable support in 2022. Without their input, such high and quality standards would ever been achieved.

When INCA reaches its 85<sup>th</sup> year of life, the RBC also celebrates its 75 years dedicated to the scientific disclosure and information about cancer. A logo to commemorate this special date was created for the journal.

Long live RBC, we wish you all an excellent 2023!

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