

Dear Friend,

It gives me a great privilege and enormous satisfaction to officially present the Journal of Research in Speech and Language Therapy. The first issue of this new journal, which has just come out, has made this writer extremely happy; particularly given the numerous difficulties involved in starting up an enterprise such as a scientific journal firmly determined to attain the top quality, commitment and expansion quotas. In addition to all those difficulties inherent in important projects like the current, there is one of own, which is also a challenge, i.e. on the one hand the mutual incomprehension and historical separation between clinicians and educators; and on the other researchers. This has led to the almost systematic difficulties in obtaining original articles to publish and winning professional readers. The enormous rise in Logopaedics experienced today in Spain, not to mention its long European, Anglo-Saxon and Latin American does not put up with this sad exclusion imposed by both sides nor should it. It is true to say there is no scientific progress without research, likewise research in our area can and should concentrate more on its clinical and educational applicability. Thus a challenge for this journal is to facilitate contact between both sides, i.e. researchers and professional therapists, not to mention the multiple disciplines related to Speech and Language Therapy, encouraging criticism and collaboration. Here in this journal they will find a place to discover and make known the new proposals, revisions and empirical results circumscribed to research likewise clinical and educational application. This is our master editorial line, since the extent of language, speech, communication, swallowing and voice disorders (likewise other areas of interest) is such there area innumerable possible and highly interesting papers.

The birth of this new journal has come about in a particular appropriate almost critical moment, since due to recent highly important changes affecting all European universities. Speech and Language Therapy in our country has greatly benefited with the increase in credits taken by students to obtain their Speech Therapist qualification. This places us on equal footing with our western colleagues, thus indirectly achieving a historical claim. With this increase we are already beginning to see the expected increase in training of our future speech therapists. This guarantees the scientific health and professional future for our science. This training increase clearly leads to a greater demand for scientific publications, which make known all the findings and enable permanent critical communication of everything. In this sense, our journal wants to actively participate, joining forces with the few journals in the field, like AELFA for

example, which have always tried to foster scientific exchange and knowledge. Speech and Language Therapy like any other branch of knowledge should foster forums where exchange and criticism occur. Perhaps on this point, the scientific journal is the best most appropriate vehicle, though obviously not the only one. In any event, we feel it would be illogical to bet on the scientific progress of Speech and Language Therapy without publications promoting and sustaining it.

I should like to finish this brief letter, to sincerely thank those colleagues who wished to join this project from different positions and responsibilities, to finally bring it off. The scientific team, editor and team of reviewers are truly the best presentation and guarantee of the journal quality. I really have to thank them all for their great willingness and on-going work. In addition, I should like to thank all the authors who sent us their original articles for this first issue, for the confidence shown in this project. We are all aware of the demands and pressures to which we researchers and professionals are subject, therefore, the sending of original papers to our journals despite being presented and guaranteed by excellent team, deserve honest recognition. Although some papers have not been so fortunate, this director feels the same gratitude towards those authors, since the effort behind those original papers and the desire to make known the latest knowledge, is where this journal has its reason for existing. Lastly I should like to thank the Professional Association of Speech Therapists of Castilla la Mancha and particularly my Faculty of Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Nursing of Castilla la Mancha University, for their assistance for this Project to finally see the light. In this sense the economic support has been essential for which I expressly thank the Dean of the Faculty and Speech and Language department of the same, likewise Castilla la Mancha University as a whole.

Regards,

Miguel Lázaro López-Villaseñor

Director of the Journal of Research in Speech and Language Therapy