

18.09.2007

Stegemann, H. The Potential of
Local Editors. Ethics in
Publication

The Potential of Local Editors Associations in Promoting Ethics in Publication

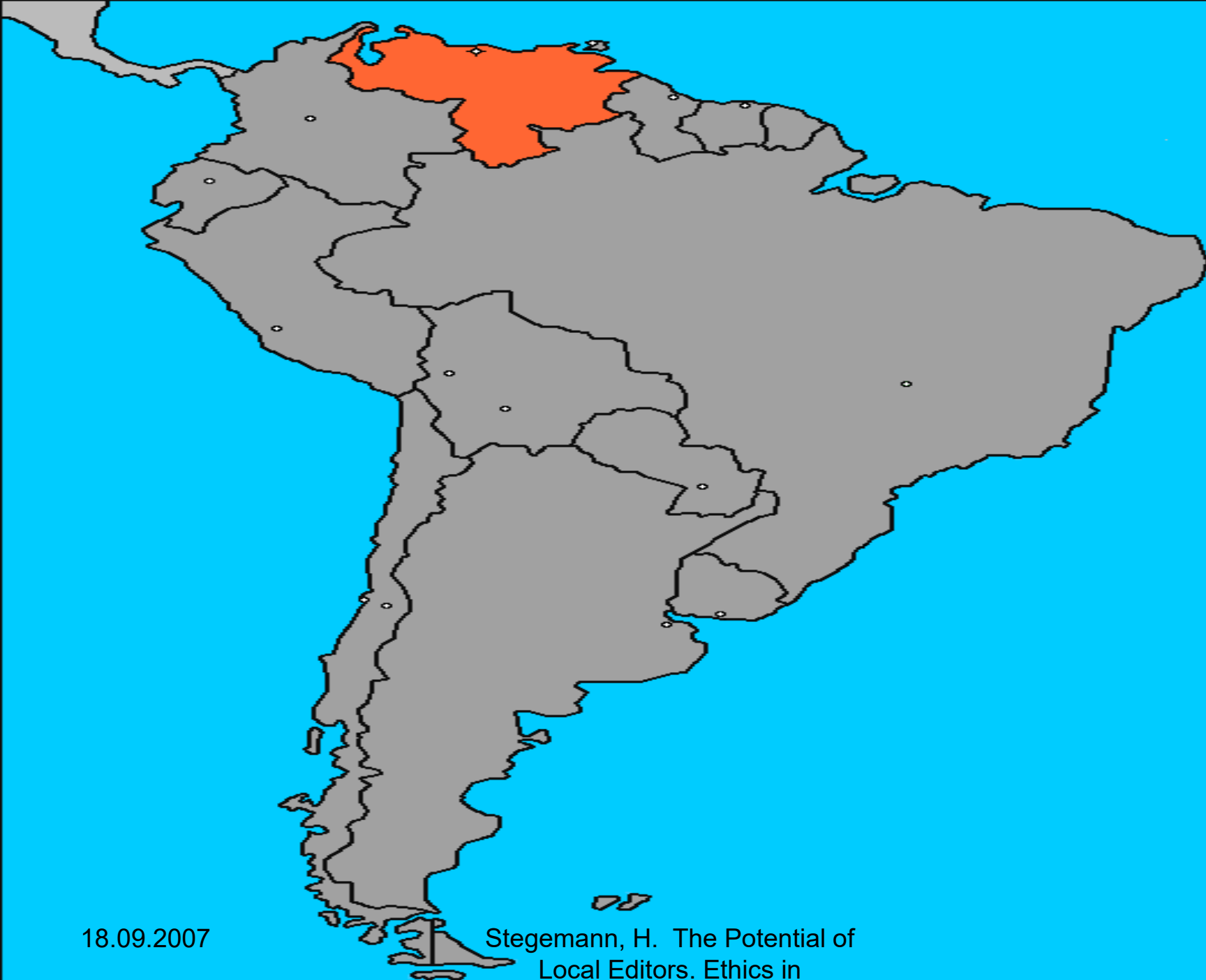
The Experience in Venezuela with ASEREME

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WORLD CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY

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Venezuela: Facts

- **Northern tip of South-America**
- **Language: Spanish**
- **Per Capita Income: US\$ 5M**
- **27 MM Inhabitants**
- **50 M Physicians**
- **8 Medical schools**
- **49 Universities**
- **7 M Medical students**
- **60 Bio-Medical periodicals**
- **640 M Internet subscriptions**
- **Average monthly physicians income: US\$ 450.00**



Medical Editors Association of Venezuela –ASEREME-

- An independent “virtual” group, founded 1975
- Pioneer group in Latin-America
- First inspirations: ICMJE, Robert Day’s Book, BMJ (our most continuous source)
- 60 journals, most of them “not-academic” (Scientific Societies)
- Activities: monthly board meetings, annual editors meetings, seminars, conferences, workshops, editorial assessment
- Relations:
 - National: health and investigation authorities, academic,
 - International: BIREME, WAME, CSE, COPE, BMJ (Alex Williamson), The Lancet (Sabine Kleinert), EASE (Elise Langdon-Neuner)
- Promotion, assessment and consulting activities

Venezuela: ethical regulations

- **ASEREME, Internal rules**
- **Medical Associations, Code of Ethics**
- **Ley de Ejercicio de la Medicina (Medicine Law)**
- **FONACIT, Código de Bioética (Code of Ethics)**
- **Hospital ethics committees**

Issues I/II

- **Authors:**
 - Unaware of ethical rules
 - Redundant publication
 - Authorship criteria
 - Citation and reference failures
 - Plagiarism
 - Lack of statistical treatment
 - Seldom translation into English
- **Editors**
 - Indexing failures
 - Redundant publication in the same journal
 - Punctuality and periodicity failures
 - Financial difficulties
 - Visibility: libraries, data bases, distribution
 - Web page and e-mail address failures.
 - Electronic format



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Issues II/II

- **Peer reviewers**
 - **Delay in processing**
 - **Confidentiality**
- **Pharmaceutical Industry**
 - **Important guidance and reference**
 - **Advertising rules**
 - **Easiest way to introduce into investigation activities and its rules**



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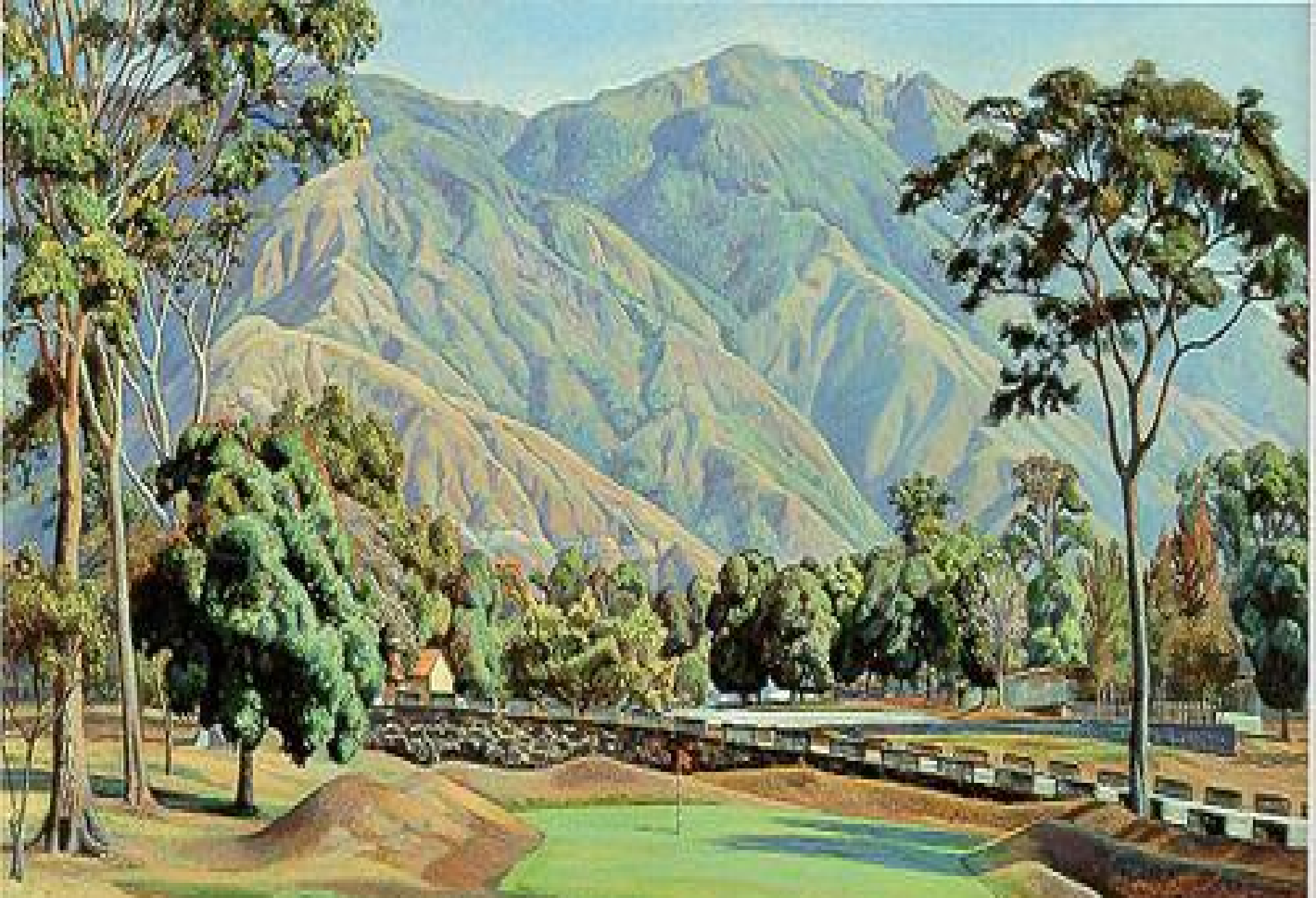
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Achievements

- **Consulting body**
- **National Register of S&T Periodical Publications –FONACIT-**
- **Personal direct editorial assistance**
- **Workshops and seminars**
- **Peer review training courses**
- **Ethical issues**
- **International contacts (ICMJE, WAME, CSE, BMJ, The Lancet, COPE, BIREME)**

Future

- **ICTRP**
- **“Whistleblower” protection.**
- **Continuous promotional activities related to ethics**
- **Stimulate international editors relations (WAME, CSE, ICMJE, EASE)**
- **Language barriers (bilingual summaries: in Spanish?)**
- **Editor associations as “journalology” schools**
- **The “Small Journals” issue!!**



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History

- “Hemos observado que algunos colegas ... reproducen con frecuencia trabajos originales ... tomados de esta Gaceta, sin mencionar su procedencia ... es ...una falta de cortesía ... abuso ... (prometemos) publicar los nombres de los periódicos que desconocen las reglas de la buena educación”.

**Razetti L. (?) Gaceta Médica de Caracas
1894;2(8):88**

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