

Rooted in Memory, Open to the World

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This is the first issue of the APU Journal.

I write these opening lines aware that a first issue is never truly a beginning. What reaches you today does not come from a blank page but from decades of work, dedication, and scientific identity. The APU Journal does not start from nothing. It grows out of the *Acta Urológica Portuguesa*, which for decades was the voice of Portuguese Urology, where many of us published our very first paper and where, issue after issue, a shared scientific legacy was built. Behind those pages, there have always been people: editors, reviewers, and authors who gave their time, often without thanks, so that others could learn and grow. We remember them with gratitude. This is their journal too, and we mean to carry it forward.

The APU Journal remains, above all, the official journal of the Portuguese Association of Urology. Its purpose remains unchanged: to give visibility to research produced in Portugal and to serve as a forum where our community recognises itself. We welcome a broad range of submissions, including original research, reviews, case reports, and clinical studies, aiming to reflect the diverse and evolving landscape of urology. What changes is the horizon. Today's medical research is global, competitive, and demanding, and the platforms that carry it must meet that reality. For this reason, the APU Journal is published entirely in English — not as a departure from our identity but as the means by which that identity can be read, cited, and valued beyond our borders.

And we do not set out alone. The APU Journal begins its life as a sister journal of the International Brazilian Journal of Urology (IBJU), one of the most respected names in our field. A partnership we are proud of. The two journals do not compete; they complement one another. This bond opens our pages to authors and readers across the world, links Portuguese Urology to a far wider community, and provides careful, clinically meaningful work with something every author hopes for: a home, and readers who will genuinely engage with it. Side by side, the two journals reach further than either could alone, and Portuguese Urology takes its place in a conversation that spans the world.

A journal is only as strong as the people who guide it. The APU Journal is served by an editorial board of

specialists with clearly defined areas of expertise, recognised not only in Portugal but also internationally. We are committed to rigorous peer review processes that uphold the highest scientific standards. It is, by design, constantly evolving: month after month, it welcomes new members, broadening its competence and perspective. We extend an open invitation to colleagues who wish to lend their knowledge to this effort: the board will continue to grow, and with it, the breadth and depth of what we can publish.

In building this journal, we hold two commitments in balance. We honour the experience of those who built this speciality and who rightly expect from us the rigour, seriousness, and continuity that a national journal embodies. And we open our doors to a younger generation — ambitious, international in outlook, unafraid of new questions and methods — for whom this journal must be a place of opportunity. These are not competing audiences. A journal that keeps faith with its past while offering a stage to its future is exactly the journal that Portuguese Urology now needs.

That commitment is also reflected in our standards. The APU Journal is already indexed in Embase, and we are working towards indexation in PubMed/MEDLINE and Web of Science. This demanding but essential step will provide the fullest possible visibility and discoverability for the work published on these pages. It is a clear statement of intent: our ambition is quality, and quality that is seen.

The future, as was written when the journal that preceded us took its leave, is built with memory, vision, and courage. With this first issue, we begin to build it. We are grateful for what came before, confident in what lies ahead, and open to all who wish to write the next chapters with us.

I invite authors, reviewers, and readers, in Portugal and beyond, to make this journal their own.

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