

Urology Journal in 2008 A New Look

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Happy new year to all our readers, contributors, reviewers, consultants, and editorial advisors. We welcome the New Year—a time for reflection, transition, and looking ahead. The *Urology Journal* editorial team wishes all our readers an enjoyable, healthy, and successful new year. As 2008 has arrived, we at the *Urology Journal* are very pleased to enthusiastically unveil our new look. A major goal of the editorial board and staff of the journal is to meet our readers' informational needs and respond to readers' requests and suggestions for future content development. A transition can be thought of as a turning point or a passage from one contextual pattern to another. After several years of enormous activity and transitions, we are beginning a period where we are focused on improving our communications, processes, and procedures. What is down the path for the *Urology Journal* over the next months? One very exciting outcome in 2007 will be our indexing in MEDLINE/PubMed, a benchmark on the road to becoming a prestigious journal in the field of urology. We owe our improved position to the quality of our authors' contributions, the quality of our reviewers and their comments, and the hard work of our industrious editorial and production teams. We also thank our executive editor Dr Farhat Farrokhi, whose sharp critical eye has done so much to improve many manuscripts.

The *Urology Journal* grew in many ways in 2007, and with the help of you all will continue to grow in 2008. We strive to publish information that is evidence based and useful. We recognize that our readers are busy clinicians; therefore, every issue of the *Urology Journal* offers a variety of concise articles. We were able to focus more on subjects of interest falling within the scope of our journal. Processing, editing and reviewing

more submissions, publishing more papers, and publishing those papers more quickly, all are among our goals in 2008.

It would be hard to find anyone to dispute the idea that free access to the research literature is a laudable aim. The *Urology Journal* already provides entirely free access to the journal. Our journal can be accessed directly through its web site (www.uj.unrc.ir). In 2008, readers and authors across the world will be able to continue to participate in the *Urology Journal* at no cost and without the bias that can come from commercial sponsorship. We are pleased to announce that as from January 2007 the journal's manuscript submission and peer review process have all occurred on-line. This should speed up our processes significantly and we hope authors will be pleased with the new technology.

In keeping with the recommendations of the *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors*, the *Urology Journal* editorial team adopted the definition of editorial freedom endorsed by the World Association of Medical Editors. We were able to maintain our high standards of quality peer review. We would like to thank our large team of national and international reviewers, who provided us with invaluable advice on manuscripts submitted. Consider joining our team as a *Urology Journal* reviewer. Reviewers critique 4 to 6 manuscripts per year and may decline a review because of time constraints.

In relation to the *Urology Journal*, in 2007, a sum of 145 manuscripts were submitted. The 4 issues published during the year consisted of a total of 58 articles (5 reviews, 32 original articles, 15 case reports, 3 editorials, and 2 letters) adding up to 262 pages. The geographical origins of the articles other than Iran were as follows: 3 from USA and 1 from Greece, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Australia,

and Saudi Arabia, each. The submissions last year were increased by 72%. We hope that 2008 will also be a fruitful year for the journal, and that we can increase the interest of our readers and authors.

One indisputable role of the *Urology Journal* is to educate. We are making a concerted effort to focus our publications on 3 major areas: education, public health issues, and leadership issues. As we continue to evolve, we have solidified how we view our focus. Such reflection is the genesis of our decision to concentrate more on our ongoing purposes. The journal's primary focus is on publishing credible peer-reviewed researches that provide the evidence-based rationale needed for making clinical decisions.

In 2008, we as editorial board, shall be happy to

continue serving you as authors and readers of our open-access journal devoted to all aspects of urology. In the forthcoming years, we envisage continuing growth in the *Urology Journal*—a growth in readers, activities, and financial resources, and further expansion of our coverage. In 2008, we shall continue to work for the further advancement of the *Urology Journal*, among other things, by stepping up our efforts to solicit reviews on subjects of topical interest from active members of the research community.

We look forward to a productive and successful 2008!

Mohammad Reza Safarinejad
Associate Editor, *Urology Journal*