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Editor-in-Chief**

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*Dear friends and colleagues,*

This editorial will be my last as editor. It has been a 20-year journey. In 1992, I teamed up with Bob Fauteux, who owned a small medical publishing company, to start the Canadian Journal of Urology (CJU). I became the founding editor in chief. The Canadian urological community was going from strength to strength in terms of academic productivity and research, and I was confident that there was appetite and support for a Canadian journal. The journal was strongly supported by urology researchers in Canada (and gradually in other countries), with outstanding original contributions. After a few years, the journal became indexed (a major achievement at the time) and endorsed as the official journal of the CUA.

In 2006, in its 14<sup>th</sup> year of publication, the CUA expressed a strong interest in taking ownership of CJU. Negotiations with the publishers were unsuccessful. This was a difficult period with a lot of uncertainty. Did the CUA belong in the publishing business and would a CUA journal be viable? Fortunately, the CUA had visionary presidential leadership during this period, particularly Michael Jewett, Yves Fradet and Luc Valiquette. We took the risk. The CUA and I parted company with the CJU. In 2007, the CUA initiated publication of CUAJ, and I was asked by the executive to take on the position of Editor-in-Chief. I have remained in this position since then. CUAJ rapidly became indexed and has enjoyed a steady increase in impact factor and quality. It is, unequivocally, the journal of record for Canadian Urology and is strongly supported by our community. It has also been well-supported by our sponsors.

CUAJ has enriched the landscape of Canadian Urology. It has raised our profile internationally and has enhanced the academic productivity of many Canadian urologists. It has contributed to making the CUA a multifaceted, modern medical organization.

The success of CUAJ has also been due to the talent, enthusiasm and commitment of Josephine Sciortino. The CUA was incredibly fortunate to find her. She is a phenomenon!

It has been a singular privilege to start two successive Urology journals in Canada, and to be Editor-in-chief for almost 20 years. From the beginning, I saw the mandate of our journal as providing a forum to showcase Canadian urology research, particularly in areas which were unique to our country. We've worked hard to improve the quality of medical writing in submitted manuscripts, focusing on concision and avoidance of clichés.

Finally, it has been an extraordinary opportunity to write editorial overviews in each issue. The quality and provocative nature of many of the manuscripts we published made this easy. I never had to search far for inspiration.

About 18 months ago, Rob Siemens joined the journal as Associate Editor. Dr. Siemens' outstanding talents made my job much easier. This past year, the journal also made a profit. The 5 years it took to be "in the black" was precisely the timeline estimated when CUAJ began in 2007. With these two developments, I thought it was timely to step down as editor. It has been a wonderful experience to lead the team that created this journal, and I am confident that a new editor will be found who will bring it to even greater heights.

So on to the current issue. It includes basic research (an excellent study showing that sacral nerve stimulation in a spinal cord injured rodent model works by inhibiting C-fibre activity), outcome research (excellent results of laparoscopic partial nephrectomy), pediatrics (voiding function after tubularized incised-plate hypospadias repair is essentially normal), patterns of practice (outcome of radical cystectomy is better in academic than community centres), surgical education (construct validity of a virtual reality laparoscopic simulator in residency couldn't be demonstrated), an article describing an objective urethral stricture scoring system, and an overview comparing varicocelelectomy to gonadal vein embolization (both have a role).

Best wishes to you, our loyal readers and contributors.