



Luc Valiquette

President, Canadian Urological Association
president@cua.org

It is with great pride that I am writing this message for the inaugural issue of our Journal, the *Canadian Urological Association Journal (CUAJ)*. As you may know, Canadian urologists, whether they practice in an academic or community setting, are very active in scientific research. On top of regular attendance at our meetings, members of our association also make notable contributions at several international meetings. Therefore, it makes sense that an association like ours has a vehicle to disseminate the scientific works of its members and foreign colleagues.

This wish came partially true during the past fourteen years thanks to a partnership with entrepreneurs who owned the *Canadian Journal of Urology*. Owing to a fruitful collaboration between these owners and several members of our association, the *CJU* was built up and became indexed in 2001. However as years went by, this partnership became questionable because the leaders of our association wished to modernize the journal and make it more able to respond to our members' needs whereas the owners preferred to collect benefits rather than reinvest in educational services. We were in an unhealthy situation where the volunteer scientific work of our members was only being used to increase the commercial value of a company that not only kept the profits, but also represented a direct competition to obtain funds from the pharmaceutical industry and distributors of medical supplies.

Over the past few years, your executive has worked to modify our relationship with the *CJU*. Recent discussions regarding the creation of an Office of Education made the need to control our own journal even more pressing. In June 2005, an ad hoc committee was set up to negotiate a new partnership. After a process that lasted close to a year, we were not able to reach a mutual agreement in spite of generous offers on our part. In June 2006, the decision was made at the Annual General Meeting to sever all ties with the *CJU* and to control our own journal either by acquiring it or creating a new journal. The owners' behaviour made this latter option the only one possible.

After a few legal hurdles, which we have overcome, and thanks to the infallible support of all the members of the executive and of our association, a new journal took shape. We chose an experienced editor, Dr. Laurence Klotz, with whom we shared our recommendations on the journal's direction. We assured him of our desire to give him editorial independence and freedom to set up his editorial board. We established an operating budget and set up the necessary infrastructure for the journal to function properly. As managing editor for *CUAJ*, we hired Ms. Josephine Sciortino, who until recently occupied this position at *CMAJ*, the leading medical publication in Canada. The tight collaboration between our executive, the staff at the CUA central office and the new editorial team of the *CUAJ* has allowed for the establishment of a start-up strategy that has been communicated to our members and partners. This strategy was well-received and allowed for the launching of this first issue within the allotted time.

As you can see, the decision to create a journal is the result of a long process and we took all the necessary steps to make it a high-calibre scientific publication. We are relying on the collaboration of our members to make it a contemporary, lively and relevant publication.

I hope you will enjoy reading our first issue. We look forward to receiving your contribution soon.