

Editorial foreword

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This is the third year of publication of *Open Access Journal of Urology*, and I am enthusiastic about the future prospects of this journal. As science and technology becomes increasingly complex, researchers require methods to improve efficiencies.

The National Science Board estimates the average annual growth of the indexes within the Web of Science to be 2.5%.¹ On this basis, over 1.5 million peer-reviewed scientific papers will be published in 2011. Dealing with hundreds (if not thousands) of pages of research papers is par for the course for many in the scientific community. The 21st century is the digital age, and the era of online collaboration has arrived. Retrieval of scientific information in a digital format instead of hard copy can help to manage the onslaught of scientific papers. Further, open access to studies for all researchers, instead of restricting right of use to those who can afford to pay, can facilitate the exchange of ideas on a broad basis and foster the advancement of science. Online publishing of scientific papers through the *Open Access Journal of Urology* meets both these criteria and is the way of the future.

The numbers of papers published in our journal have been increasing, perhaps because established journals have rejected some excellent articles due to print space limitations. This will not occur at the *Open Access Journal of Urology*. If our peer reviewers conclude that an article is worthy of publication, it will be accepted. Also, we will let you know, one way or the other, in a short time. The turnaround time for the publishing of manuscripts is a few weeks.

There has been a lot of interest in papers that have appeared in the *Open Access Journal of Urology* in the past. There have been almost 80,000 queries of these articles by people who want to learn more about them. Many of these studies have been instructive and informative – browse through past articles and see for yourself. A study which found benefits of management of benign prostatic hyperplasia with silodosin² is the most popular, with over 2000 queries by people interested in this paper. Several other popular articles evaluated treatments of overactive bladder treatment^{3,4} and testicular cancer.⁵ There has also been a great deal of interest in an article which reviewed urologic applications of robot-assisted surgery,⁶ which is another timely topic.

We look forward to reviewing your future papers. I believe that *Open Access Journal of Urology* can fill an important role in publishing scientific studies that advance the science of urologic medicine.

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