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## Editorial for Urological Research

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The first two issues of Urological Research in its new form have now been published and you will have already noticed the changes in the general format of the journal. In particular, there has been an increasing emphasis on papers involving studies in urolithiasis and its related areas of research, as indicated in the new subtitle of the journal and this is already being reflected in the increasing percentage of manuscripts received from researchers in the stone field. The change in emphasis has not yet fully fed through to the actual contents of the journal as we are still working our way through a backlog of general urology articles submitted before the changes were introduced. I would reiterate, however, that it is not our intention to confine the journal solely to papers on stone research and we continue to encourage authors to submit their top-quality manuscripts on all aspects of urological research. However, I should emphasise that, whatever the topic, preference will be given to original work; papers that merely reproduce what other workers have previously published will be given a much lower priority for inclusion in the journal.

I am pleased to report that the changeover in the procedure for submitting articles from hard copy to electronic version is proceeding well and that we are now receiving all our new manuscripts by electronic submission. Authors who now submit hard copy articles are being requested to resubmit them electronically, if at all possible, although exceptions may be made where the author does not have easy access to facilities for electronic submission. The instructions on how to proceed with the electronic submission of articles to the journal are quite

simple and may be found by accessing the Urological Research site within Manuscript Central on: <http://ur.manuscriptcentral.com>. If you experience any problems with the electronic submission of your manuscript, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at: [urol-res@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:urol-res@ucl.ac.uk) and I will try to guide you through the procedure.

Following the introduction of these changes in the format of the journal and in the method of submission of manuscripts, I would like to announce the following further innovations. These were discussed at a recent Editorial Board Meeting held during the 2nd EULIS Symposium (10th European Symposium on Urolithiasis) in Istanbul. As you will have seen, the Abstracts of the Symposium were published in the Urological Research and it is now Editorial Board policy to try and publish all abstracts from future urolithiasis symposia in the journal. In addition to the current option of submitting an Original Article or a Review Article, there will, in future, be the option to submit a Case Report, a Letter to the Editor, a Book Review (by invitation), an entry in a CD-ROM Register and a CD-ROM Review (by invitation). Details of the requirements for each category are set out below.

Firstly, I would like to re-introduce the regular series of review articles started by Professor Schröder which may consist of either (a) a state-of-the-art Invited Review (one to be included in each issue of Urological Research) or (b) a Voluntary Review which authors may wish to submit unsolicited to the journal. The Invited Review would be on a topic proposed by the Associate Editors and myself and agreed by the invited author(s). It would consist of an up-to-date review of a maximum of 6,000 words, including the figures and tables, and containing a maximum of 150 references. The Voluntary Review, which might be derived, for example, from the review section of an MS, MD or PhD thesis, would be limited to 4,000 words and a maximum of 100 references. The latter type of review would be refereed in the same way as an Original Article.

Secondly, there will be the opportunity to submit interesting Case Reports to the journal, especially (but

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not exclusively) in the field of urolithiasis. These should contain no more than one figure or table and should be limited to 1,500 words and no more than 10 references.

Thirdly, in order to make the journal a more lively organ for urological research, a correspondence section will be introduced in the forthcoming issues of the journal in which readers may submit a Letter to the Editor. The letters may include questions for the authors of articles that have appeared in the journal or make comments on various matters relevant to urological research. There will also be the opportunity for the authors concerned to respond to such comments *in the same issue of the journal*. In this way, I hope to institute some enthusiastic debate on articles published in Urological Research.

Fourthly, I would like to introduce a Book Review section in which individuals experienced in the relevant fields are invited to review new books in the general field of urology, but with particular emphasis on those pertinent to urolithiasis. My aim is to draw attention to published material that may be useful and interesting to the readers of Urological Research.

Finally, I would like to publish a Register of the CD-ROMs that I know many centres have produced on various aspects of urology. Usually these have been developed for teaching purposes. Preference for inclusion in the Register will be given to CD-ROMs that have a particular emphasis on the management of stone disease. The Register should contain the title of the CD-ROM, the names and addresses of the authors, the language(s) in which it is produced, a brief synopsis of its aims and contents (limit of 500 words) and details of how the CD-ROM may be obtained from the authors. It should be noted, however, that the CD-ROM itself should be sent *by mail* to the Editor and *not* through Manuscript Central, as most CD-ROMs will be too large to be sent electronically. My aim is to optimise the teaching potential of CD-ROMs in urology and stone disease. The CD-ROMs will then be sent out for review to ensure that they do not contravene accepted ethical standards and a reviewer's comment (similar to that contained in a Book Review) appended to the Register entry.

I hope that these changes will eventually lead to an improvement in the quality and impact factor of the journal although this may take a number of years to become fully apparent. It will always be the policy of the journal to promote the highest standards in research. In this connection, may I remind authors that they should obtain and declare ethical approval for all studies involving human subjects. Studies involving animals should conform to accepted national and international guidelines for animal experimentation. Regretfully, I have already had to return a manuscript as unacceptable to an author who failed to observe the latter requirements. In the same way, I have had to reject an article which turned out to have been submitted *simultaneously* to two journals. My attention was drawn to this malpractice by a vigilant reviewer who, by chance, was sent simultaneously the same article to review by myself and by the editor of another journal in the field. I would emphasise that it is totally unacceptable to submit an article to two journals at the same time. In this regard, I would draw the attention of authors to the statement in the Copyright section on the inside front cover of the journal that, "Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture, review or thesis); that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities at the institute where the work has been carried out; that, if and when the manuscript is accepted for publication, the authors agree to automatic transfer of the copyright to the publisher and that the manuscript will not be published elsewhere in any language without the consent of the copyright holders." When submitting an article to Urological Research, it should be clearly understood that the same article should not be under consideration for publication in another journal at the same time. The Editorial Board have agreed that measures may be taken, at the discretion of the Editor, to suspend authors found to have contravened this principle from submitting articles to the journal for a period of at least 3 years.