

Indian Journal of Urology: A growing journal of South Asia

This is my first issue after assuming the post of the Editor of the *Indian Journal of Urology* (IJU) and the first editorial in this role. The Journal is not new to me. I have been associated with it since 2009, first as an Editorial Board member and then becoming its Associate Editor in 2013. I have witnessed its growth over the years and celebrated when it achieved various milestones. The Journal became listed on PubMed in 2007 with the efforts of Professor Nitin Kekre, the then Editor of the Journal. Under Professor Rajeev Kumar, who shouldered the Journal for the last 10 years, the Journal achieved significant milestones. The Journal got listed on eSCI in 2016 and got an impressive Impact Factor of 1.1 in 2023 (Clarivate Analytics).^[1] It was accepted as the official journal of the Nepal Association of Urological Surgeons (NAUS) and as an affiliate journal of the Urological Association of Asia.

Eminent academicians have served as Editors of the Journal, and it is a matter of great pride for me to be listed in this elite company.

The Journal is the official journal of the Urological Society of India (USI) and has total autonomy in its functioning. The Journal was established in 1984 with Professor Mahendra Bhandari as its first Editor. It is published quarterly in print and electronic formats. It is fully funded by the USI and completely open access (diamond open access) with no fees at any stage of publication.

Today, Indian urology is growing at a fast pace.^[2] Seeing this trend, the USI started subsections in 2022 and these subsections held their annual meetings in 2023. In addition, in India, the number of postgraduate seats is highest in urology as compared to other surgical subspecialties and urology attracts the largest number of residents.^[3]

What is the purpose of IJU? Although global in nature, the Journal provides a platform for highlighting regional research giving visibility to regional urological issues and conditions.^[1]

The Journal is actively involved in strengthening the research methodology training of the members of the USI, NAUS, and the trainee residents by conducting regular scientific programs, specifically during the

annual meetings of USI and NAUS. With the healthy growth of urologists in India, it is expected that the number of manuscripts submitted will increase.

The Journal strives hard to maintain high publication standards and has a robust database of peer reviewers. In 2023, it received 500 submissions from 45 countries with 27% of submissions coming from outside India. The overall acceptance rate was 14% and 7%–8% for case reports and original articles, respectively. In 2023, the submission to first-decision time averaged 23 days and the submission to acceptance was 45 days (Prof. Rajeev Kumar, personal communication). This timeline is much shorter than what is claimed on the website that says, “All articles will receive a timely review and attempts will be made to notify authors of the editorial decision within 3 months of receipt of a complete manuscript.”

Looking ahead, we are looking at increasing the number of articles in each issue. Furthermore, with the formal launch of USI subspecialty sections (Andrology, Female and Functional Urology, Pediatric Urology, Renal Transplantation, Uro-Oncology, and Urolithiasis), there is a plan to start these sections in the Journal. We intend to increase the presence of the Journal on social media platforms.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an intergovernmental organization and a geopolitical union of the countries in the South Asian region. Its eight member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.^[4] There is a new urology association, the South Asian Association of Urological Surgeons (SAUS) that joins urological surgeons of the region. The IJU is the only indexed urology journal published from South Asia. While NAUS has accepted it as its official journal, it would be worthwhile if other countries of SAARC and SAUS also accept it as its official journal. The inclusion of editorial members from these countries would benefit both the Journal and the urologists of this region.

Running a journal requires a team effort. My present team of Associate Editors and Editorial Board members has been doing a great job. I solicit the support of my team, the council members of the USI, and, most importantly, the authors, who have shown their faith in the Journal and submitted their valuable work to us. We intend to continue on the path of excellence, honesty, and integrity.

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