

Portuguese Kidney Journal on the Verge

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In 2024, a major change was introduced in the scientific journal of the Portuguese Society of Nephrology – the former title Portuguese Journal of Kidney and Hypertension, which was regularly published since 1986, gave the way for the new brand entitled Portuguese Kidney Journal. It was not only the change of the title but, instead, a major renovation of the structure of the Editorial Board and Scientific Committee and, more importantly, a decisive contribution from Dr. Helena Donato as Editing consultant to the PKJ made all the difference. A comprehensive set of new editorial policies and procedures was introduced, including updated author guidelines and submission forms, peer-review procedures, publication ethics and research integrity standards, authorship and conflict-of-interest policies, transparency requirements, and a specific policy on the use of artificial intelligence, to align the PKJ with current international standards and best practices in scientific publishing.

There are several aspects that make a scientific publication trustworthy. First is regularity, which means that an expected issue should be released on time. To make this possible, several articles should be prepared to be released for the next issues (more than one, preferably), and this depends on submissions and their quality. Between January 2024 and September 2026, more than 140 papers were received and 100 were published on a regular basis, showing good acknowledgement within the nephrological community. Moreover, a strict article processing pathway from editors to reviewers (and back to the authors) that keeps the timeline is fundamental. Pre-publication

availability of the accepted manuscript (ahead of print) is a way to address the authors concerns related to the fact that only four numbers are published every year, which could lead to an increase in the time between acceptance and availability to the public.

Second is everything related to the structure of the articles, from authors' names and correct affiliations (an ORCID ID is required) to references format, tables, and figures, which are thoroughly scrutinized, creating a brand that can be easily recognized in the field.

For authors, the PKJ offers an accessible and attractive publishing environment, combining publication at no cost with immediate open access, rigorous and transparent peer review, modern editorial standards, and increased opportunities for the visibility and dissemination of their research.

Ultimately, PKJ is listed on various international and Portuguese platforms, including the SciELO Citation Index, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), RCAAP (Repositório de Acesso Aberto em Portugal), and IndexRMP, reassuring authors that their research will receive proper visibility among their colleagues. Nonetheless, I believe that significant effort is needed to prepare PKJ for advancing to an improved indexing network, which also relies on the capability to attract new authors from Europe, Brazil, and additional Portuguese-speaking nations, as well as from other medical fields beyond nephrology.

Let's get it done!

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