

Once upon a dream

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Editor-in-Chief

It was twenty years ago that the long-standing dream I and a handful of colleagues shared of starting a Portuguese journal devoted to nephrology came to fruition. That dream took the shape of the *Revista Portuguesa de Nefrologia e Hipertensão* and 2006 was its twentieth year of uninterrupted publication. The journal, the official organ of the Portuguese Society of Nephrology, became a forum for not only national but also international nephrologists as it carried articles in three other world languages besides Portuguese. Our pages served to publish the original work of countless authors from several countries. The majority of these were Spanish or Spanish speaking and the first among these, both in terms of time and the volume of articles published was Prof. Fernando Valderrábano, a very early apologist of our project and a friend who remains forever in our memories.

Yet when one ambition is realised, others rise to take its place, as the sweeping change in the journal attests. Previous editorials I published in 2006 have detailed why our journal, now the **Portuguese Journal of Nephrology and Hypertension**, has switched to an English only format; showcasing national nephrology abroad and bringing world-renowned nephrologists closer to their Portuguese counterparts. This first issue of 2007 is our first new-format edition. We have a new editorial policy of strictly adhering to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals produced by the ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors). In tandem, we have a fresh, innovative look, putting our humble publication on a par with its sister journals world-wide.

This would not have been possible without the staunch support of the board of the Portuguese

Society of Nephrology, in particular its President Dr José Vinhas, who have all worked hard alongside me and the Deputy-Editor, Prof. Rui Alves, backing the change to the hilt. In a similar vein, the degree of like-mindedness and enthusiasm I have encountered among younger nephrologists has been particularly pleasing. Likewise, the professionalism and commitment of our publishers *Ciência e Vida* and our English text editor, Rebecca Baker, MA, have been fundamental for the success of this journal.

In addition, the level of interest internationally has been more than gratifying. Our International Editorial Board contains very illustrious names who have willingly given their invaluable time and expertise over the years out of their friendship and solidarity with our endeavour. Their involvement continues, whether as reviewers or authors of editorials and review articles. This is a heavyweight contribution to continuous medical education as among this global cast of long-time supporters are some of the most prestigious editors-in-chief of international journals. If pressed here to thank one name in particular for his efforts, it would be Prof. Eberhard Ritz, a man after my own heart who dedicates himself to a labour of love.

My hope now is that our passion keeps the dream alive. That we continue to display the same measure of faith and team spirit as we work towards making our journal a continuing source of national pride as well as a relevant body of scientific work which reaches out beyond our borders to forge links to the medical community at large.

Dream a little dream with me.