TCOL: a quarter of century

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Techniques in Coloproctology (TCOL) was founded in 1992, as the official journal of the Italian Association of Coloproctology Units (UCP Club). The first version was in Italian and in English. Since then, many authors have contributed to the development of the journal. Among the others, I would like to mention Steven Wexner, from the USA, Francis Seow Choen, from Singapore (the two Co-Editors), and Andrew Zbar, from Australia. Although the journal was not indexed yet, they made many outstanding contributions and allowed it to reach an international standard. Let me also thank my family, Marian Shields and Caterina De Bono, who strongly supported me.

Springer-Verlag became the publisher of TCOL in 1999 and helped us to index the journal. Madeleine Hofmann

and her staff, from Milan, did a great job of making the journal known worldwide. I am very indebted to the Italian Society of Colo-Rctal Surgery, which became our main sponsor and was followed by several international societies, from all continents, which took TCOL as their official journal. Among them are Israeli, Mediterranean, Indian and Chinese societies. We now publish 12 issues per year online with more meta-analyses and systematic reviews, plus multimedia articles focused on surgical techniques.

We received the first impact factor of 1.2 in 2011, and it has now increased to 2.3, due in great part to the outstanding work done by Giuseppe Gagliardi, who became the second Editor-in-Chief. Both of us have strived for a transparent relationship with the manufacturing companies and made a point of requiring authors to declare their conflict of interest, if any, in order to emphasize the importance of ethical reasoning and behavior in the field of coloproctology, in the interest of both science and patients.

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After a quarter of a century devoted to the journal, it is time for me to leave it in the expert hands of the Editors-in-Chief Giuseppe Gagliardi and Jonathan Lund, supported by the Springer-Verlag, the new owner. Giuseppe, a colorectal surgeon practicing in Chicago and affiliated with Herand Abcarian's department, managed TCOL for 10 years. Jonathan is a well-known colorectal surgeon in Derby and the University of Nottingham, UK. Both of them have a strong scientific background I am sure they will ensure that the journal reaches even higher levels of excellence.

I would like to thank all those who helped TCOL to become successful, i.e., the members of the editorial board,

the reviewers and the presidents of the affiliated societies. I am confident that the journal will continue to be an appealing forum for clinical and research achievements.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The author has no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Informed consent There was no need of informed consent for this type of study.