The Cradle of the Journal of International Urology and Nephrology

Foundations of Our Journal

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Our journal celebrates its 45th anniversary this year. The first issue was called as Urology and Nephrology—An International Quarterly. It is important to look back to evaluate the past to energize and motivate ourselves to keep us on the right track and to get inspired for further development. The history of the Journal of International Urology and Nephrology is closely related to the history of the Hungarian urology and also the name of Professor Zoltán Szendrői.

Attila Szendrői: Grandson of the founding editor.

The first issue was distributed to the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Korean People's Republic, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR., People's Republic of Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Switzerland.

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First issue of Urology and Nephrology

The history of urology as an independent discipline in Hungary dates back to the second half of the nineteenth century. Géza Antal (1847–1889) was the first Professor and Chair of the first urological department in Hungary,

which had 20 beds in 1884. His successor Géza Illyés (1870–1951) became the first professor of university department of urology and had strong connections with American physicians. By 1921, the department had 20 physicians, 101 beds, and was the second independent university department of urology in Europe [1].

Department of Urology, Budapest

Between the two world wars, the urological department of Semmelweis University was the flagship of urology. More than one hundred colleagues visited the department only from the USA (Table 1).

Table 1 Visitors of the Department of Urology between 1918–1939

Department of Urology visitors from Europe		Department of Urology visitors from all over the world	
Italy	18	USA	106
Germany	15	Japan	8
Romania	9	Canada	6
Switzerland	8	Australia	3
Great Britain	7	Argentina	2
Soviet Union	4	Indonesia	1
Bulgaria	3	Palestine	1
France	3	China	1
Finland	3	Turkey	1
Estonia	3	Rhodesia	1
Luxemburg	3	Brazil	1
Portugal	2	Egypt	1
Austria	2		
Poland	2		
Yugoslavia	2		
Spain	2		
Czechoslovakia	2		
Denmark	1		
Norway	1

Prof. Zoltán Szendrői

In the early 1950s several hospitals were attached to Pázmány Péter University and turned into Departments. At the same time, the Medical Faculty became an independent institution as the Medical University of Budapest; it took on the name of Ignác Semmelweis on the Faculty's bicentennial. Semmelweis, described as the “savior of mothers” was an early pioneer of antiseptic procedures. While working in Vienna General Hospital's first Obstetrical Clinic in 1847, he discovered that the incidence of puerperal fever could be drastically cut by the use of hand disinfection.

Following the Second World War due to the political situation, Hungary became totally isolated from the West European and American scientific world. In the era of the so-called iron curtain Hungarian urologists had no chance to publish in internationally recognized journals; therefore, they had lost reputation and also found themselves isolated from the mainstream scientific life. However, the level of research and publication was as high standard as before publishing opportunities were limited to Hungarian and Russian papers only. Considering these circumstances, Professor Zoltán Szendrői's idea to establish an own high-level urological journal was an excellent solution to solve the problem.

Establisher Professor Zoltán Szendrői worked at the Department of Urology from 1942 till 1973. His activity was inspired by the love toward the sick and the science. Due to his excellent operating routine and his remarkable scientific work, he had a great influence on his students and colleagues. Professor Szendrői was an outstanding expert respected as top authority by the entire profession [2]. Rightly he claimed the journal as his own brainchild, to which the best part of his talent, knowledge, and time had been devoted for the purpose to establish and to run it. Well-known authorities in some fifteen countries gladly responded to the call when Prof. Szendrői invited them to join the Editorial Board. However, establishing a high-standard scientific journal in 1969, editing it in English on a regular basis, making it available not only for Hungary and socialist countries but also for the West was a considerable challenge.

Dr. József Kondás

The journal was published four times a year by the Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which is the most acknowledged publisher of high-quality scientific journals in Hungary. Soon at the beginning of the process, the editor faced a problem, namely the lack of quality articles. Also the English of the articles was quite poor; therefore, he had to make a decision to accept the publications in Hungarian. A translator, named Gábor Salgó, was employed to ensure the language standard, and his wife became the redactor. All of the articles were reviewed and corrected by the Editor in Chief. As of 1971, MEDLINE indexed the journal, which was a remarkable step forward and a significant acknowledgment of the high-standard publications.

After many years of enthusiastic editorial work, Professor Szendrői suggested to hand over the editorial work to József Kondás, the then President of the Hungarian Association of Urology was appointed to the next editor in chief.

International Urology Nephrology Impact factor

In the first 2 years (1989–1991), Professor Szendrői and Dr. Kondás edited the Journal together. In the era of József Kondás, the number of the reviewed articles slowly decreased, but the acceptance rate remained as high as 80–85 %, and all the reviewing and editing process were carried out by the editor in chief.

In 1998, the Kluwer Academic Publisher took over the publishing from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the editorial process changed significantly. As Kluwer was also publishing the Journal of Geriatric Nephrology and Urology, the company decided to blend the two journals. József Kondás remained the editor of the Urology section and Dimitrios G. Oreopoulos was appointed to the editor of the nephrology section, and within nephrology section, the general and pediatric nephrology became also separated editorial boards [3]. Following the retirement of Dr. Kondás in 2005, Dimitrios G. Oreopoulos took over his position. Since 2006 the International Urology and Nephrology has been published by Springer Publisher resulting in further changes. Ananias Diokno was appointed to the editor of the urological, and Adrian Covic to the editor of the nephrological section. The Editorial Manager program was introduced, and the editorial process became even more objective and fast. As of 2006, the journal has been producing steady impact factors.

During the development of the International Urology and Nephrology, we can observe how it became from a local, low-volume, single-person-edited, English language (but 100 % Hungarian author) paper to an internationally acknowledged, indexed, high-standard, rapidly progressing journal with international professional editors, among them Hungarians Professor Péter Nyirády and Professor Imre Romics.

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