Editorial

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'... THE REWARDS OF ACADEMIC MEDICINE ARE PLENTIFUL: THE PRESTIGE OF PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS; THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH BRIGHT STUDENTS, HOUSE OFFICERS, AND COLLEAGUES; EXPOSURE TO THE MOST CHALLENGING CLINICAL PROBLEMS; INVOLVEMENT IN IMPORTANT RESEARCH; AND RECOGNITION FOR ONE'S EXPERTISE, SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES.' (Kassirer JP. Tribulations and rewards of academic medicine—where does teaching fit? *N Engl J Med* 1996 Jan 18; 334(3): 184–185).

International Journal of Impotence Research: Journal of Sexual Medicine (IJIR), now in its 17th year, remains committed to the principles and rewards of academic medicine. *IJIR* remains a leader in the field—it is a premier journal for: teaching; research; exposure to the most challenging clinical problems; for the dissemination of important, timely and provocative information in the arena of sexual medicine; and for recognition by peers of scientific accomplishment. By the timely dissemination of scientific and intellectual data that is necessary to move the field forward, we empower the reader with the capacity to help the patient, to motivate, to challenge and raise new scientific questions. To this end, the scope of *IJIR* has expanded to include such topics as ejaculatory dysfunction, female sexual dysfunction, andrology, and the cardiovascular aspects of sexual medicine, among others.

IJIR provides the reader with the best that sexual medicine has to offer, allowing the readership exposure to experts in this ever-expanding field. The Editorial Board is comprised of world-renowned teachers, researchers, and clinicians who are poised to face the challenges the readership may provide; share their expertise by authoring pertinent review papers; and act as referees on important research papers. On a personal note, I am indebted to the new Editorial Board, who come from many walks of medical life, to dedicate their time and expertise to *IJIR* and to the readership. This new and expanded board provides *prima facie* evidence that the journal is committed to expansion into all areas of sexual medicine. The publisher, Nature Publishing Group, remains undeterred in their effort to see *IJIR* remain at the head of its class.

IJIR is unique in its ability to review and publish manuscripts in a rapid fashion. The advance online

publication (AOP) feature clearly distinguishes the journal from other publications. The online publication of manuscripts in short-order after acceptance is a key feature unique to the journal. Imagine your manuscript published online, within a brief period, not months after acceptance, as we all are too often accustomed to.

The discipline of sexual medicine continues to expand exponentially, reflecting the explosive growth of the scientific knowledge base, as well as the keen interest in this area of medicine. *IJIR* welcomes high-quality manuscripts that cover all areas of sexual medicine, from sexual dysfunction in spinal cord injury to novel applications of phosphodiesterase inhibitors; from androgen deficiency in the aging male to dyspareunia, unique and timely topics that reflect the broad expanse that is now sexual medicine. Laboratory investigation, novel mechanisms, interesting clinical articles, and unusual case reports will all find their home in *IJIR*.

So, why 'invest' in *IJIR*? Investment in *IJIR* is an investment in the future of academic sexual medicine. It is also an investment in your future, and in the future of the health professionals who we teach, train, and imbue with our knowledge and skills. Academic sexual medicine of the highest level is the goal of *IJIR*, and your support reinforces the notion that this objective is significant, is meritorious, has value, and is universally accepted.

On a final note, as I assume the editorship, I wish to acknowledge the previous editors and Editorial Board, who have directed *IJIR* into the 21st century. These people of vision nurtured the journal through its infancy and adolescence. The journal now faces adulthood, with its many challenges. *IJIR* is well schooled, well versed and well prepared to face the uncharted waters ahead. The *IJIR*–Nature Publishing Group alliance, combined with world-renowned Editorial Board, is a formidable force, ready to face the future head-on.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER (Ipsa Scientia Potestas Est)

Sir Francis Bacon, *Meditationes Sacrae, De Hæresibus* (1597)

AD Seftel
Editor-in-Chief