

# A very unique Journal

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**T**he Portuguese Association of General Practitioners (APMCG), the scientific, society of Portuguese family physicians, was founded in 1983, both as an academic society and a professional organization. The creation of a scientific journal was an early goal of the APMCG leadership. The first edition of the Portuguese Journal of General Practice – PJGP (*Revista Portuguesa de Clínica Geral*, RPCG) was published in 1984.

The PJGP underwent many changes during the past 24 years. In the early years there were difficulties related to discontinuity, delays in the editing process, a lack of funding, a shortage of original research, and a lack of peer-reviewers, among others.

The maturation of the Journal was parallel to the evolution of modern Portuguese General Practice and the development of the Society (APMCG). As the consolidation of the profession advanced, so the Journal became accepted, attracting a substantial number of papers from Portuguese-speaking family physicians and achieving recognition as the key-reference journal in Portuguese. With the increasing number of papers from research in family medicine, several other medical disciplines began targeting the journal for publishing. Most family physicians and trainees (residents) now regard the Journal as an important source of information, a means for updating and a way to spread the results of their research. It is regarded as the primary scientific journal for Portuguese family physicians.

The PJGP has an editorial body formed by family physicians. It publishes original articles in Portuguese, English or Spanish (Castellán). All papers undergo a blind process of peer-review by, at least, two referees and all articles require an abstract in both Portuguese and English. Each of the Journal's bimonthly issues is printed in 8,000 copies. It is distributed to health cen-

tres, governmental bodies, libraries, medical schools and individual or institutional subscribers in Portugal and abroad. In addition, all the members of the APMCG receive it as a benefit in their membership fee. Since 2000, the full text of the Journal is online in portable document format (pdf) on the APMCG web page ([www.apmcg.pt](http://www.apmcg.pt)), simultaneously with or prior to the appearance of the printed edition.

For the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society in 2008, the Board of APMCG has asked the Editorial Board of the PJGP to produce a special English language edition of the journal consisting of original contributions from a number of renowned international authors who have previously published articles in the Journal, an original paper describing the development of Portuguese General Practice and a number of editorials. In this special issue, there is also a sample of abstracts of original articles published in the PJGP in the last three years; they cover its main sections, namely Original Research, Clinical Reviews, Clinical Practice, Opinion and Comment, Brief Reports, Journal Club, POEMs and Web Health.

We are privileged to publish an original editorial by the President of WONCA Europe, Professor Igor Švab, to whom thanks are due for his promptness in producing an excellent editorial in a short time.

The Editors have recently applied for the National Library of Medicine Literature Selection Technical Review Committee for inclusion in MEDLINE. The major criteria seem to have been met. We hope to receive a positive answer, thus allowing the PJGP to be recognized by its peers as the main publication of family medicine in the Portuguese language. Meanwhile, we will maintain our effort to improve our publication, counting on our authors to maintain the flow of articles of increasing quality that make the PJGP a very unique Journal for authors and readers in the Portuguese language.

\*Editor-in-chief of the Portuguese  
*Journal of General Practice*