



Atena Journal of Urology - Why a new urology journal?

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Atena is an ancient Greek goddess associated with wisdom. Wisdom according to Cambridge Dictionary means: “wisdom: noun [U] /'wɪz·dəm/ the ability to make good judgments based on what you have learned from your experience, or the knowledge and understanding that gives you this ability” (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wisdom>).

The medical field and technology are progressing at a very fast pace. We believe that being wise means integrating the latest medical information in a technological package so that we can best deliver our mission, following our values. We also see it as a continuous changing and learning process.

Urology is defined as: the area of medicine concerned with the parts of the body that produce and carry urine (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/urology>). Examples of urological conditions include kidney stones, kidney cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, penile cancer, urinary incontinence, and erectile dysfunction.

Mission Statement: We aim to improve the health and quality of life of people with urological conditions, through innovation, education, research guidance and promotion.

We have started this journal with two premises:

1. Patients would like to know more about their urological conditions and how they can improve their health.
2. Patients cannot access reliable urology information as to date no journal has been dedicated to the patient where research is disseminated in a manner that can be easily understood.

Atena Journal of Urology is a patient centered urology journal that is adapted to the new reality. The world has changed on multiple dimensions since The Journal of Urology was launched in 1917. People connect differently in the internet era where information travels at the speed of light and with virtually every citizen being a potential broadcaster of information. The quantity of information has made it very difficult for the non-expert to verify and rely on its quality.

Access to information has never been easier, but access to finding “good” information might be more challenging than ever. Moreover, a great medical discovery might stay in the pages of a journal with the main beneficiary (scientists, clinicians). However, the patient may not be able to read it because of access cost, knowledge of where to find it, and the scientific language used.

We will provide urological medical information in various formats: accessible articles, vlogs, blogs, and podcasts with each format undergoing peer-review by at least two experts in the field of study, usually a urologist and an academic, so that all submitted work undergoes the same rigorous scientific validation as a peer-reviewed scientific manuscript. The information will be disseminated (language, structure) so patients can easily understand.

Vision: To provide an integrated multi-platform for publication of research and educational material, for discussion of current ideas in urology and for patients’ engagement and education. We aim to be the number one urology platform for patient centered peer-reviewed publications of written, audio and video materials.

We believe in **open access** to information and that is the reason why our journals is and always will be an open access platform. Moreover, to leave a minimal negative impact on the planet the journal is only going to be **digital** with no printed version.

We will host various ways of publishing research including interviews with consultants and academics that are experts in various fields, video-information, etc. To fulfil this mission, we will have a strong digital presence (a webpage) and a platform to be present on social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn). We will engage and collaborate with non-profit and for-profit organisations that have the same values and the same final goal of improving patients' wellbeing. We will aim to create an integrated platform with presence on various social media platforms where the patient can interact, propose research questions, or ask for specific information. We also aim to create a platform where the patients can interact with other patients that have gone through a similar experience to be able to share their invaluable experiences and to offer support for each other.

We plan to start our journey (journal) with the following sections:

- I. **Original research** - Atena Journal of Urology prioritises reports of original research that are likely to change practice or thinking.
- II. **Reviews** of the existing literature knowledge (we would love patient guidance on the relevant topics of interest for them).
- III. **Expert Vlogging** - with Experts in the Field that will have the patient at the center.
- IV. **Top 3** published articles from other journals written in a patient friendly language.
- V. **We have tested** section will include scientific evaluation of various “apps and software” that are not medical devices or CE or FDA marked (British Version), to rate with stars from one to five: 1. Medical validity (Are they based on scientific data) 2. User friendliness 3. Value added to patient care 4. Overall recommendation: *Yes, give it a go and try it or Better stay away.*
- VI. **Letters from patients:** we believe that there is a lot of learning potential if patients would share their views in a “reviewed” manner with editors' clarification so that potential scientific errors are removed but the learning is kept.
- VII. **Our friends campaigns:** we will support non-profit and for-profit organisations to fulfil their mission as long as our missions are common.

This journal has a continuous publishing model. One volume is published every year and the papers are added to the current volume immediately after acceptance (maximum time from acceptance to publication: one week). As soon as possible, the journal will be indexed/abstracted in different databases.

Our Values

Honesty: having a work ethic that puts patients' interest at the center and is in line with ethical and moral values.

Openness: we want to offer everybody free access to great quality medical information in the field of urology. We believe that the way an article is written, the language, the structure, and using scientific terms is a barrier to accessing information for the patients.

Team-players: To fulfil our mission, we need to listen to and work with our patients and collaborators and not to believe that we know their needs better than them.

Courage: Having the courage to start a journey without knowing the final destination, or having all the resources, but having the humility to be aware of not knowing everything, admitting mistakes and learning from them.

We start the journey for our patients and each **decision** will be guided by the answer to these two questions: 1. Does it add value to our patients and 2. Does it follow our values. The answer to the first question will consider long term value over short term gains. (Example: If a treatment has short term benefits but potential very serious side effects over the long-term, we would not regard this treatment as bringing value to the patient.)

How can a patient support us: As this is a journal designed with the patient at the center, patients' presence is of utmost importance. A patient can help by subscribing to our regular email, by sharing on social media our information, by becoming involved in our social media feeds with comments on personal experience, questions, challenges, etc. We would also appreciate emails with direct feed-back, criticism so that we can learn lessons and grow, or positive, so that we can celebrate our achievements. We also welcome any ideas for improvement. We aim to guide the journey in a direction that the patients would like to take it by offering medical expertise and also the infrastructure to be able to build it.

How an author can submit papers: As this is an open peer-reviewed journal that is focused on patients, the structure of articles will follow the standard format (please see [instructions for authors](#)) but the language used must be written so that a patient would be able to understand (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/qsir-patient-information.pdf>). An alternative way would be to submit in parallel with the manuscript a section for patients: this would

include the standard format, but the language and the structure of the way information is delivered should be tailored for patients (see [guidance](#)).

How an expert can help our patients: By letting us know a topic of interest for our patients.

How a charity or company can help: By being part of our knowledge platform and delivering our content to their patients; by helping us understand patients' needs and ways to improve them; by helping us to define our research topics so that they are in line with our patients' views. We will also support other charity projects if they align to our values and our mission.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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