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Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

Back in February 2004, when I accepted the appointment as Editor-in-Chief of *Giornale Italiano di Ecografia* I wrote an editorial which clearly showed my enthusiasm for the task lying ahead of me. Today, when leaving the *Journal*, I hope that I will be able to mask the sadness I feel. Among the numerous projects that I wanted to carry out, some have been realized while others – also very important – have not.

I am not going to describe the changes that were made as you can see for yourself by browsing through the *Journal*, but I would like to point out particularly one part of my program which I have to bequeath to my successors. The failure that I most regret is that we did not achieve indexation of our *Journal* on PubMed, particularly as this very important target was missed by only 0.5 points in the score for admission. However, I do hope that we can overcome the impasse and achieve this goal very soon. The impact factor is a direct result of the indexing on PubMed and the result of a broader editorial activity.

I would like to apologize to those members who did not appreciate the transition to English, but this step was necessary in order to make our *Journal* attractive also to foreign sonographers so that we could receive more manuscripts for publication.

Another step that will mark the evolution of the *Journal* will be the publication exclusively online. This courageous decision was taken by the SIUMB Council in October 2009 mainly to reduce the elevated costs in connection with publication of the printed paper version. Numerous other and more prestigious scientific journals are already publishing online, however, in order to ensure that we have the support of our members, I am planning to organize a referendum on our website where you can express your opinions on this issue and let us know if you prefer the paper version and if you are

willing to increase the membership fee in order to pay for printed copies and postage.

At this point I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the people who are contributing to the successful publication of our *Journal*. First of all Claudia Fuà; without her constant work, the *Journal* would not have been able to reach the present high-quality level. It is thanks to her scrupulous commitment that the *Giornale Italiano di Ecografia*, which later took the name of *Journal of Ultrasound*, has been published regularly in these recent years.

Special thanks must go to the Elsevier staff for their efficient management and professionalism, particularly to Dr. Cristina Pelizon, who has always assisted us whenever we had problems, and Dr. Valeria Brancolini with whom we have collaborated on the more technical aspects of the publication of our *Journal*.

Heartfelt thanks are due also to our translators, Marian Kent and Karen Outtrup, who have shown great diligence, often extending their role beyond that of the mere translator to assist the reviewers in their work. Many thanks also to the reviewers whose work has been essential to the successful evolution of our *Journal*.

I would also like to thank our two colleagues, Dr. Elisa Pagliara and Dr. Giovanna Soglia, who have translated for free and edited articles submitted in English for publication on our Italian website.

Finally, I owe a warm thank you to all those colleagues, who have provided the lifeblood of the *Journal* by submitting excellent manuscripts of high scientific value. I do recommend that you continue doing so also in the future.

To conclude, I would like to wish Dr. Ferdinando Draghi, my successor as Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Stefano Spiezia, the newly appointed Editorial Director, all the best in their new roles. A tough job is awaiting you, but also a job full of satisfaction.

Dear colleagues, I concluded my first editorial with a request addressed to all of you, and today I would like to repeat the same words of encouragement... please don't let us down!

Thank you for the esteem and affection with which you have assisted me in these years.

Sincerely,

Francesco Maria Drudi

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