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Changing the guard at the Journal of Oral Diagnosis

Within the complex setting of scientific publishing, the editorial board of a journal stands as the guardian of its scholarly legacy, guiding its trajectory and ensuring its enduring relevance amidst the dynamic landscape of academia¹. This special responsibility often marks a symbolic “changing of the guard” as new Editors-in-Chief assume leadership, mapping new paths for the publication while drawing from the achievements of their predecessors. The tradition of acknowledging such transitions through editorial reflections is well-established within the scientific community. Just as Burt² elucidated in his editorial for *Histopathology*, titled “Changing of the guard”, we also find ourselves at a juncture deserving recognition of the succession within the editorial board of the *Journal of Oral Diagnosis*.

As we assume the custody of the journal as Editors-in-Chief, we acknowledge the legacy left by our predecessors, Dr. Décio dos Santos Pinto Jr., Dr. Fabio Daumas Nunes, and Dr. Celso Augusto Lemos, all affiliated with the University of São Paulo, School of Dentistry, São Paulo, Brazil. During the initial period of the journal, they organized the publication of the first eight volumes of the journal, which encompassed 227 articles. They also managed numerous other submissions that did not fulfill criteria required for publication. Within this period, they established the operational framework of the journal, initiated its dissemination, and secured its first two indexations in the Diadorim[®] and Google Scholar platforms. Additionally, we acknowledge the responsibility given to us by the Directive Board of the Brazilian Society of Stomatology (Oral Medicine) and Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology (SOBEP), which launched the *Journal of Oral Diagnosis* in 2012.

As the new curators of the *Journal of Oral Diagnosis*, our primary objectives are to strengthen both geographical and gender diversity within the editorial board and to facilitate internationalization, particularly within the dynamic scientific landscape of Latin American and Caribbean nations. The editorial board will count on the collective experience of the past Editors and the expertise of a panel of Advisory Editors, composed by internationally distinguished leaders in Oral Medicine and Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, who will support the dissemination of the journal worldwide. The Associate Editors will share with the Editors-in-Chief the commitment to defend the journal’s guiding principles. Serving as the backbone of the editorial team, this group will initially consist of 22 renowned professionals from Brazil (13), the USA (5), the UK (1), Spain (1), South Africa (1) and Czech Republic (1). Additionally, the group of ad-hoc reviewers will play a crucial role in maintaining the dynamic workflow of the editorial process.

We aim to align the journal’s official website with the standards demanded by leading indexing databases, thereby augmenting its accessibility and visibility. Furthermore, our goal is to expand the dissemination of scholarly content, especially manuscripts, by enhancing our social media platforms. Additionally,

we are committed to establishing sustainable directions for financial support, guided by adherence to scientific ethics. We also attempt to elevate the quality of scientific contributions, prioritizing original research and systematic reviews, thereby aligning with the criteria set by leading international indexing databases, securing the journal's global reach through indexing in Bridge Base Online (BBO), Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature (LILACS), Latindex, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Scopus. Acknowledging Brazil's prominent position as a global leader in education, research, and clinical services within Oral Medicine and Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology^{3,4}, we urge contributors to the Journal of Oral Diagnosis to enhance their collaboration with the editorial board, building upon the efforts made over the past 12 years.

In conclusion, as we step into this new chapter as Editors-in-Chief of the Journal of Oral Diagnosis, we are dedicated to preserving and advancing the scholarly legacy established by our predecessors. Our vision is to

enhance the journal's impact by promoting diversity, expanding our international reach, elevating the quality of scientific contributions, and fostering a vibrant academic community in the fields of Oral Medicine and Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology.

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