

## Editorial

Starting with this issue, *Urologia Internationalis* will be the official scientific journal of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie (German Society of Urology).

The German Society of Urology is the largest national urological association in Europe with over 5,000 members. It was founded in 1905 in Vienna when urologists from the German-speaking countries united to form this Society at a time when urology was usually part of surgical departments.

German urology has made significant contributions to the art and science of urology. The invention of the cystoscope in Dresden by Maximilian Nitze in the middle of the 19th century gave instrument makers from Germany the unique chance to become famous all over the world. More recently, percutaneous litholapaxy and ESWL have been developed and perfected in Germany like many variations of urinary diversion. Thus, German urology has been and is an important contributor to urology in Europe and in the world.

The German Society of Urology has a traditional journal in German called *Der Urologe*, which is widely read in German-speaking countries. However, scientific contributions nowadays will not be recognized if they are not published in the English language and for this reason the German Society of Urology decided to collaborate with Karger Publishers to make *Urologia Internationalis* its of-

ficial scientific medium. The intention is to give German scientists in urology a better forum for international recognition.

The German Society of Urology considers this to be an important step forward in promoting contributions of especially younger German urological scientists. *Urologia Internationalis* will remain an international journal with an international editorial board, welcoming submissions from all over the world. With an impact factor which has been steadily increasing over the past ten years, the new journal will also benefit from the new collaboration in acquiring more readers and a wider distribution.

Thus, this step will be beneficial to all concerned, the readers of *Urologia Internationalis* and the members of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie.

*Stefan Müller*

President, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie

*Manfred Wirth*

Editor

Past President, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie

*Oliver Hakenberg*

Editor

Secretary General, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie