

Editorial - Editor-in-chief, December 2025

Carlos Bilreiro



Dear colleagues and friends,

With the year 2025 now concluded, I am here, as usual, presenting data on editorial activity and ongoing projects at Acta Radiológica Portuguesa.

We have recently started the **continuous publication** process, a requirement for indexing in several publication databases, which allows for the immediate impact of published articles. This means that authors of articles accepted for publication no longer have to wait for the next issue of the journal for their article to be published, as it becomes available within one to two weeks as Online First on the ARP website. These articles are included in future ARP issues, with the respective issue number assigned from the first publication, as you can see on our website. I must thank our secretariat, in particular Luísa Cláudio, for the additional effort in implementing continuous publication, with the support of the Pubin platform in particular Susana Costa.

Moving now to the **editorial activity for 2025**, we had 44 article submissions, a number similar to last year's 43 articles and higher than the annual average of 39 articles since 2017. We increased the rejection rate and consequently reduced the acceptance rate, which are now at 38% and 62%, respectively, compared to 32% and 68% in 2024, and an annual average of 23% and 77% since 2017. The secretariat rejection rate (immediate rejection by the Editor-in-Chief) has clearly decreased to 3% (11% in 2024; 2% since 2017). Regarding the speed of editorial response and the peer review process, we maintained the trend of decreasing days until the first editorial decision, with an average of 5 days (6 days in 2024; 14 days since 2017). The same applies to the number of days from the start of the peer review process to the final publication decision, with an average of 108 days (115 days in 2024; 139 days since 2017).

These figures exclude articles from publications by invitation or with fixed periodicity, namely from the sections "Editorials", "ARP Cases", "Vanguard of Interventional Radiology: selected cases", "Visual Abstracts on Radiology and the Past: Secrets unveiled", "In memoriam", "Voice of ARP Sections", "Institutional College of Radiology".

The evolution of the reported values reflects not only a higher average quality of submitted articles, but also a greater demand for quality from our Editorial Board and invited reviewers, which is necessary for the relevance of our journal in a highly competitive global scientific landscape. I must

therefore thank, first and foremost, our reviewers for their fundamental contribution to the functioning and continuous improvement of our journal. As usual, the annual reviewer certificates will be sent shortly. Our Editorial team has also maintained high standards of quality and rigor, making the review process faster and more demanding.

The first **ARP Review Fellowships** course, which began in September 2024, is now ending in late 2025. During this period of approximately 16 months, after a brief initial theoretical training, participants carried out structured reviews of scientific articles submitted to our journal, with post-hoc comments from the Editor-in-Chief. Like other European journal courses, this training aims to empower Portuguese radiologists in the peer review process, which is the basis of scientific knowledge production. Despite the limited number of Original Article submissions – the most relevant type of article for the course – we had an average of 5 Original Articles reviewed per participant, in addition to Review Articles and Clinical Cases. I would like to congratulate the excellent participants of this first course, who demonstrated high standards of technical and scientific rigor, always maintaining the critical sense fundamental to a good review:

Dr. Alcinda Reis (ULS Entre Douro e Vouga)

Dr. José Pereira (ULS Almada-Seixal);

Dr. Natalie Antunes (ULS São José);

Dr. Pedro Riesenberger (ULS São José);

Dr. Pedro Coroas da Rocha (ULS Santo António).

We plan to soon launch a second ARP Review Fellowships course, which will be announced in due course.

I would now like to congratulate the authors of the most read articles this year (publications from 2024 and 2025), based on the number of accesses and downloads on our website, which are presented below in the Top 3 articles of ARP 2025:

Original Articles:

- 1 - Antunes FM, et al. Microaggressions, Exhaustion, and Ethical Suffering as well as Impostor Phenomena in Radiology Nationwide - Preliminary Assessment of their Impact on Health and Well-Being at the Workplace.
- 2 - Marques dos Santos F, et al. Comparing Artificial Intelligence AI-Rad Companion Chest CT vs Experts on Emphysema, Lung Nodules, Thoracic Aorta and Thoracic Spine.
- 3 - Gama S, et al. The Role of the Radiologist with On Site Presence in the Night Shift in a Central Hospital.

Review Articles:

- 1 - Figueiredo Lopes M, Corte Real F, Monteiro C. Virtual Autopsies in the Forensic Field: Achievements and Limitations.
- 2 - Riesenberger P, et al. Decoding Videofluoroscopic Swallowing Studies Sip by Sip. Part 1 - Normal Findings.

Opinion Articles, Technical Innovations, Perspectives, Clinical Cases, Images of Interest:

- 1 - Lourenço C, Santos J. Divergences between Portuguese and European Legislation on Radiological Protection of Pregnant and Lactating Women – Scientific Justification or Discrimination?
- 2 - Bilhim T, et al. APRI – Portuguese Association of Interventional Radiology.
- 3 - Carvalho DC, et al. Accessory Abductor Digiti Minimi: A Rare Cause or just an Incidental Finding in Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?

As usual, the respective certificates will be sent out shortly.

I wish you all an excellent year 2026, and may we be able to elevate National Radiology to the highest level!

Call for papers – Original and Review Articles

Acta Radiológica Portuguesa is seeking new submissions of “Original Articles” and “Review Articles.” These articles will be given priority for publication in upcoming issues. Articles in the sections “Clinical Cases” and “Images of Interest” will continue to have lower publication priority.