

# EDITORIAL COMMENT

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## The Year Behind and the Year Ahead

As another year comes to a close, it is an appropriate moment to reflect on what has been accomplished before turning our attention to the year ahead and defining the future direction of the Portuguese Journal of Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery.

It was a year marked by renewal. Early in the year, Dr. Marina Dias Neto stepped down as Editor-in-Chief, leaving behind a journal that is significantly stronger and more mature than the one she assumed leadership of in 2021. Her contribution was fundamental in consolidating the journal's editorial structure and scientific standing.

In May, Dr. Gabriela Teixeira concluded her role in the Vascular Section, and we were pleased to welcome Dr. Rita Augusto to the Editorial Board. Such transitions are a natural and essential part of the life cycle of a healthy journal: colleagues contribute decisively to its growth and, in due course, make room for others to bring renewed energy and new perspectives.

From an operational standpoint, key performance indicators showed meaningful improvement. We achieved faster editorial decision-making, with a continued reduction in time to acceptance, from 157 to 129 days, and a substantial decrease in time to rejection, from 148 to 64 days. Equally important was the reduction in the acceptance rate, from 61% to 32%, reflecting our commitment to progressively higher scientific standards.

These advances are fully aligned with our mission to publish high-quality research in the fields of Cardiac,

Thoracic, and Vascular Surgery, while serving as an active scientific forum that promotes the advancement of our specialties and supports the continuous education of both early-career and senior surgeons.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the PJCTVS over the past year: authors, readers, editors, and, in particular, our reviewers. As Dr. Marina Dias Neto has aptly stated, manuscript review is a demanding task that requires considerable time and dedication. Despite their professional and personal commitments, our reviewers have consistently risen to this challenge, exemplifying the true spirit of academic generosity and collaboration.

As 2026 begins, filled with hope and ambition, the Editorial Board wishes that these aspirations may be realized for all our readers and contributors.



Filipe Ferreira Leite | Editor-in-Chief