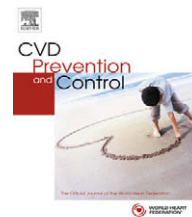


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EDITORIAL

Readers will notice a change in this first issue of 2010. There is a new section with its own editor overseeing articles from the Asian Pacific region, which is an initiative of the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology. We welcome Dr Matsumori as the new editor for this section and I personally wish him and his editorial team much success. It is more than coincidental that the World Congress of Cardiology is taking place in the region, which is able to support its own section in each issue. The current selection of articles attests to the level of scientific excellence emanating from the region and foretells the scope of articles that we can expect in the future. Discussions are also underway with other regional societies, which may participate in a similar manner.

My previously announced departure as editor-in-chief has been delayed pending an on-going search for a new editor-in-chief, who is ultimately responsible for the entire journal. Along with this change will come a new roster of editorial board members and an international advisory board. In order to give the new editor the opportunity to have a voice in the selection of board members, no names are being displayed in this issue.

After 6 years of publication since its inception, it is time for CVD Prevention and Control to redefine itself. One of the proposals is to go on-line with each issue and publish a hard copy of all articles once a year. This would help reduce publication costs and at the same time provide easier and more rapid access around the world. As I have stated several times before, the world is replete with cardiology journals so a relatively new contributor, as is CVD Prevention and Control, requires a unique niche. It is my hope that a focus on the developing world and providing young researchers an opportunity to publish, for many their first time, will remain a mission objective of this journal.

A critical next step, which is long overdue is indexing of all articles. The requirements are strict and the opportunity to reapply if unsuccessful involves a 2 years waiting period, so the time of submission has to be carefully considered. This matter is in the hands of the publisher, Elsevier who will guide the process over the next few months.

This is an exciting time for cardiovascular public health, with an unprecedented widespread eagerness to engage in

the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases worldwide, but especially in low and middle income countries, where the epidemic spread of atherogenic lifestyles is already imposing a significant burden of cardiovascular diseases on national economies and the lives of individuals and their families. Global and regional declarations as well as reports from prestigious institutions and organizations are helping generate awareness of the importance of the problem. These messages must now be translated into the language of politicians and policymakers who can be persuaded to provide the resources for national and local initiatives. Ultimately health care institutions, school boards, workplaces and the home must create the changes that will foster heart healthy lifestyles. Guidelines and clear legislative directives will support this process as will those approaches, which have been tried and demonstrated to be successful in achieving heart health. A journal such as CVD Prevention and Control can serve an important role publishing original reports of successes as well as those reports of approaches, which do not achieve desired results and should be avoided.

The recent Institute of Medicine report on heart disease in developing countries emphasizes collaboration. In this issue we learn about the Asian Pacific Society and the interactions and collaborations of its members through its history of congresses, beginning in 1956. There are many examples of successful horizontal collaborations. In another article Mariana Specogna addresses the barriers and facilitating factors that impact on the goal of achieving a smoke-free society in Argentina, focussing on smoking cessation. Many of these factors relate to a more vertical line of collaboration between government leaders, policymakers through health care providers and ultimately the public, who are smokers. I am most pleased to see such publications in our journal and I look forward to the scientific presentations at the World Congress taking place in Beijing with the hope of seeing many submitted later as manuscripts.

Editor-in-Chief
Andy Wielgosz