



EDITORIAL

After a Year of Prevention and Control



This journal was launched just over a year ago. In the first issue, I pointed out that we are aiming to create a niche that focuses on global cardiovascular issues. The response has been excellent as awareness of the journal's existence increases. The number of submissions is increasing and they are coming from around the world, many from junior researchers, which is exactly what we wanted to see happen. Of course, all of this poses challenges particularly in providing timely and constructive reviews. While some articles must be rejected unabashedly at the outset (about 50% at present) for lack of relevance or any scientific merit, the remainder includes many submissions that require considerable work to improve their readability.

Writing for a medical journal involves both science and art. The scientific demands are well established. They are rigorous and uncompromising. Validity, reproducibility and credibility are the underpinnings of a scientifically meritorious manuscript. The main task of reviewers is to critique the scientific quality of the reported information. But the art of writing is no less important and involves the organization of thought within a structured format as described in the guide to authors. Clarity and coherence of thought are essential to

good communication. The degree to which an article is written with (or without) conviction is more transparent than many authors appreciate. A mere outpouring of facts and figures falls short of advancing any cause. Readers are more likely to remember an article when the context has been clearly presented and the implications of the findings convincingly explained. I am generally pleased with the quality of the articles that we are able to publish. I am also impressed with the commitment of authors to seeing their work published by graciously receiving criticism and replying promptly with appropriate revisions.

We also promised in the first issue to help writers improve their submissions, particularly when English is not their first or fluent language. For the most part this is achieved by a considerable amount of editing of articles that are scientifically meritorious but present a literary challenge. We also want to help improve writing skills. To this end a writer's workshop is being organized in Barcelona around the time of the World Congress of Cardiology. The response to an emailed pre-announcement was immediate. Within hours we received requests for registration that filled more than half of our capacity and these requests came from around the world.

All of this encourages us immensely but also creates challenges. The editorial board will be expanded to meet the growing demands. We also need to broaden our list of reviewers. I thank all those who have provided excellent reviews when asked and especially those who have come forth, expressing an interest in being reviewers.

The global cardiovascular community is an exciting one with many talented and highly committed individuals. We look forward to hearing from you and about your work. For those who attend the World Congress, I wish you safe travels and produc-

tive sessions and if you have an interest in becoming more involved with the work of this journal, come to the World Heart Federation booth. I hope to see you there.

Editor-in-Chief

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