

Editorial

The launch of American Journal of Cardiovascular Disease

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the American Journal of Cardiovascular Disease, a new open-access journal devoted to reporting current advances in understanding, prevention, and treatment of the spectrum of cardiovascular diseases.

You might ask, with all the cardiovascular journals out there, why start a new one? The answer is that the constantly expanding body of knowledge being generated by research labs and clinical groups around the world needs a constantly expanding outlet, easily accessible to those who want to hear about the results. A great deal has been learned in recent years about the root causes of vascular and cardiac dysfunction. Constantly evolving imaging modalities are making it possible to study the fine details of the human heartbeat, as well as to analyze the workings of hearts in mouse embryos and zebrafish. The role and potential therapeutic uses of microRNAs and resident adult stem/progenitor cells, and the therapeutic potential of embryonic stem cells or the reprogramming of adult cells, are the subjects of exponentially growing research endeavors. This is just a small sampling of the explosion in cardiovascular research today.

It is in this exciting atmosphere that the AJCD is being launched to help disseminate the vast amounts of knowledge being generated. AJCD is an open-access journal, which means that when results appear in this journal, there are no barriers to them reaching anyone, be it researcher, policy-maker, or the interested general public. However, the cost to contributors is moderate, so financial barriers toward access

have not merely been shifted from readers to authors, who are under their own financial pressures already.

Furthermore, it is an online-only journal. Now, there was a time when an online-only journal might have been viewed with some reservations; for example, would this journal be considered a "real journal" that would carry as much weight in a publication record as a print journal? These days, however, most print journals might as well be online only. Remember reprints, and reprint requests? If you want to have some fun (and you are over 35), pull open the drawer where you store the reprints of your older papers and show it to your postdocs, and watch the jaws drop!

At any rate, the lack of print form means that publication can be quite rapid, with the aim of publication in one month, and this also keeps the costs down. Nonetheless, the AJCD will have the familiar feel of a print journal viewed online, in journal-formatted issue format with the volume and page numbers that we take for granted. It is peer-reviewed and will be fully PubMed-indexed after the initial obligatory waiting period, and will increase in frequency from quarterly to bi-monthly or monthly as papers of sufficient quality are submitted.

As we hope that AJCD will be a forum for basic, translational, and clinical cardiovascular research, the topics will cover mechanistic basic studies as well as clinical observations. You'll notice that the first issue and the forthcoming issues include clinical research into population comparisons of vessel characteristics and im-

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pact on coronary artery disease, relationship between metabolic syndrome and left ventricular hypertrophy, effects of type 2 diabetes on the vasculature, hormonal effects on obesity and hypertension, and relationship between cardiovascular disease and periodontal disease or spinal cord injury. It also includes more basic reports about cardioprotection, anti-inflammatory effects of resveratrol and its metabolites,

rodent studies of myocardial infarction-induced cytokine release, and cardiomyocyte autophagy.

We hope that you enjoy reading AJCD and will consider submitting your research to AJCD for publication!