

# European Heart Journal – Acute Cardiovascular Care moving onwards and upwards

Pascal Vranckx

Editor-in-Chief, Department of Cardiology and Critical Care Medicine, Jessa Ziekenhuis, Hasselt, Belgium & Faculty of Medicine and Life Sciences University of Hasselt, Hasselt, Hasselt University, Belgium

I feel honoured to have been chosen to become Editor-in-Chief of *European Heart Journal – Acute Cardiovascular Care (EHJ-ACVC)*. I realise that I have been charged with piloting an ACVC (Association for Acute CardioVascular Care)-charged super engine along the acute cardiovascular care highway that plunges through the medical publishing galaxy.

The ambition for *EHJ-ACVC* is to best represent our community and to foster and disseminate our research. Despite being the official journal of the ESC-ACVC association, *EHJ-ACVC* indisputably needs to become truly global.

The ESC-ACVC association has grown in size, scientific diversity, and cultural wealth. So must the *EHJ-ACVC*! The numbers of accessed and downloaded articles need to increase further, as do the citations. *EHJ-ACVC* needs to compete on impact factor in the intensive care and cardiology arenas.

Over the last decade, *EHJ-ACVC* profoundly improved its profile and metrics. However, *EHJ-ACVC* has not yet fulfilled its full potential. The journal must therefore continue onwards and upwards. Our success can only be built on a foundation of brilliant authors striving to address relevant clinical questions by applying appropriate methods, skilled reviewers intent on guiding authors towards improving their work, and gifted editors dedicating their valuable time to share their hard-earned wisdom.

Quality editors attract quality papers! One obvious area for improvement is identification of the best work among the many excellent submissions via initial manuscript selection, peer review, and internal discussion. Another task consists in offering editing and rewriting of accepted manuscripts by professionals with expertise in science, the English language, and *EHJ-ACVC* style. We target both substance and form!

Speed of the review and publication process should become our hallmark for all articles, not only those designated for 10-day profile submissions. Decisions are needed within 3 days when manuscripts are not sent out for review, within 3 weeks overall for 85% of submissions and within 7 days on average for 10-day profile submissions. Key performance indicators for the peer review process (i.e. time from submission to reviewer assignment or initial rejection, time to

first review, and time to publication) will be featured online on the journal website. We will ask for extraordinary efforts from editors and reviewers to shorten the submission turnover time. A speedy review process relies heavily on high quality reviewers. *EHJ-ACVC* will acknowledge its ten top-ranking reviewers in the journal and on the website. These reviewers will also receive a certificate from the journal to recognize review effort.

Medical journals are often perceived as working behind closed doors to apply enigmatic procedures that they have no wish to disclose. The Editor-in-Chief is thus seen as holding the keys to the mystery of how to get published. This should be different for *EHJ-ACVC*: the goals developed by the editorial board must be broadcast clearly and regularly to ensure a harmonious channelling of energies.

The editorial line defined in the last few years by the Editorial Board will be refined, but the principles in place will remain. As indicated, the journal should breathe the ESC-ACVC association, and reflect current and future trends in the field of intensive and acute cardiovascular care. *EHJ-ACVC* aims for high quality original papers that include critically ill cardiovascular patients with clear messages for all physicians working in the field. Manuscripts providing new findings from large interventional studies can be submitted as 10-day profile publications, allowing important data to be rapidly available in the public domain. The methodology and the content of original articles, review articles, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses will be evaluated closely for application of high-level methodological standards.

*EHJ-ACVC* welcomes transfers from other journals and will consider manuscripts in their original format for quality and content, but only when the remarks of the initial reviewers are addressed. Only upon acceptance ('as it is', or 'minor review') will we ask the authors to reformat the manuscript according to our journal instructions for authors. It goes without saying, *de novo* submissions should comply with the instructions to authors issued by our journal.

We endorse the concept of visual learning. A central illustration or visual abstract will be required for all original investigations, editorials, and state-of-the art reviews. The editors and editorial staff of *EHJ-ACVC* want to help authors disseminate their important findings worldwide to as many people as possible via our website and

social media. Having a compelling central illustration and Visual Abstract is the fastest way to get people to read and reference your paper.

Our social media and publicity team will make our key publications more accessible through short videos, interviews, Twitter postings, and other electronic media. We will put your work in the spotlight.

*EHI-ACVC* will remain a forum for controversial issues, presenting different opinions from experts. Moreover, *EHI-ACVC* will live up to its ambition to be an educational resource for newer generations, featuring some review articles, and images. We will also be considering short research letters, a forum for communicating early results, proofs of concept, or interesting data on small cohorts. Such contributions are increasingly published and appreciated. A one-pager 'SciencePulse' will feature in each issue of the journal. SciencePulse will capture and track the hot topics in acute cardiovascular care research, turning the spotlight onto outstanding scientist and clinicians in the field, and delivering the essence of advances from major meetings and clinical trials. Stay tuned!

The changeover is not only for the Editor-in-Chief. Some of the esteemed editors will leave the board as their mandate has ended. Thanks to all of them for helping the journal to become what it is now, and I am sure to have their support also for the future! New editors have entered the board. The incoming editors will increase our diversity, covering different sub-specialties and geographic provenance, from heterogeneous backgrounds.

I am happy to be joined by a talented core team working with me. The two Deputy Editors are David A. Morrow (Brigham and Women's Hospital, TIMI-group, USA), and Frederik Verbrugge (University Hospital Brussels, Jette, Belgium). The Associated Editors' team includes Andreas Goette (Germany), Christian Hassager

(Denmark), Xavier Rossello Lozano (Spain), Christian Mueller (Switzerland), Alessandro Sionis (Spain), Guido Tavazzi (Italy), Marco Valgimigli (Switzerland), Sean Van Diepen (Canada), and Johan Verbeeck (Belgium). Borja Ibanez (Spain), Stefan Janssens (Belgium), and Venu Menon (USA) are appointed guest editors. Other key people include Konstantin Krychtiuk (Austria, heading the social media editor's group), Ingo Ahrens (Germany, SciencePulse editor), Sigrun Halvorsen (Norway, ACVC Scientific Documents Group), and last but not least Christian Vrints (Belgium, Emeritus Editor). Thirteen of the seventeen are new entries, many selected from amongst the reviewers that supported the journal the most in the last few years and for their scientific profile. A warm welcome on board to all of you!

Moreover, a team of junior editors, Diego Araiza, Maria Rubini Gimenez, Rafael Vidal Perez, and Ümit Yasar Sinan, will focus on the new generations' needs and in developing new social media strategies. As indicated, a central figure or Visual Abstract will become available for most of the original articles and will be part of our communication. Many other slight changes will appear in the next few months. Therefore, keep following us!

Indeed, diversity and young talent are the strength and future of the journal. Therefore, we will also establish a junior reviewer training program to embrace the young and upcoming talent in our community; and to bring new, fresh voices into the review process. They will work in pairs with a mentor for two or three years. Successful candidates will be acknowledged in our journal and the best will find their way to the board.

Before concluding this editorial, a great and warm thanks to Christian Vrints, our emeritus editor. For sure, the actual *ESC-ACVC* journal is the result of thousands of hours of his work.