



Circulation Journal: A Cloud Over the Hill

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Dear Colleagues

Circulation Journal, the official journal of the Japanese Circulation Society, is on the way to becoming one of the major scientific journals in cardiovascular medicine and research in the world. As I mentioned in my editorial message in the January 2009 issue, we believe that the Japanese Circulation Society should represent not only Japan, but also other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This would make the position of the Journal in our region equivalent to that of *Circulation*, published by the American Heart Association (AHA), in America and *European Heart Journal*, published by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), in Europe (**Figure**). Ryotaro Shiba, a famous Japanese writer, described the situation of Japan and the Japanese people in the Meiji era (more than 100 years ago) as “a cloud over the hill” (*saka no ue no kumo* in Japanese), signifying a developing country (Japan) aiming at Western countries (USA and European countries). The current situation of our *Circulation Journal* is also “a cloud over the hill”, aiming at *Circulation* and *European Heart Journal* (**Figure**). Our Editorial Team will make every effort to enhance the scientific level and internationalization of *Circulation Journal* as follows.

1. Internationalization of the Journal

Since last July, 11 international associate editors have joined our Editorial Team, and have already contributed substantially to enhance the scientific level and internationalization of the Journal. I greatly appreciate their valuable contributions to the Journal. We will organize joint Editorial board meetings during the JCS meeting in Japan and the AHA meeting in the USA. In addition, every month, *Circulation Journal* publishes review articles written by internationally recognized cardiovascular scientists. I also appreciate their valuable contributions to the Journal. Furthermore, in addition to the free online journal system, we have started an international e-mail service that informs more than 5,000 foreign cardiovascular researchers of the contents of the current issue of the Journal every month.



Figure. The international position of *Circulation Journal*, published by the Japanese Circulation Society (JCS), in cardiovascular medicine and research. *Circulation Journal* should represent the Asia-Pacific region, similar to *Circulation*, published by the American Heart Association (AHA), in America and *European Heart Journal*, published by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), in Europe. Numbers in parentheses show the impact factor of these three Journals as of 2008. (Representations of the covers of the *European Heart Journal* and *Circulation* were used with the kind permission of the publishers.)

2. Review Series by Young Cardiovascular Scientists in the Next Generation

We will continue this review series in order to stimulate young cardiovascular scientists around the world.

3. Changes in the Journal Style

As can be seen in this issue of the Journal, for better visibility of the Journal we have started a full-color publishing system at no cost to authors. Some additional changes also have been made to the Journal style, including the title page style and footnotes, the style of figures and tables, and subheadings.

4. Publication of Supplementary Files

As already announced, we have started to receive supplementary files, in addition to main text, figures and tables, in order to enhance the scientific level of the Journal. All supplementary files are published only in the online journal. For details, please see the Instructions to Authors.

5. New Journal Section: Images in Cardiovascular Medicine

We have started a new section Images in Cardiovascular Medicine, where manuscripts reporting images with high scientific impact are published. For details, please see the Instructions to Authors.

6. Circulation Journal Awards and Best Reviewers of the Year

We will continue these awards to commend the authors of papers at the highest scientific levels, as well as reviewers with the highest review performance.

Our Editorial Team greatly appreciates your ongoing support and contributions to Circulation Journal, in our endeavor to enhance the scientific level and internationalization of the Journal.

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Editor-in-Chief
Circulation Journal