



Enhancing the Scientific and Internationalization Levels of the *Circulation Journal*

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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the editorial team of the *Circulation Journal*, the official journal of the Japanese Circulation Society (JCS), I am pleased to report that the scientific and internationalization levels of the Journal are rapidly advancing. As I have mentioned repeatedly in my previous editorial messages, the JCS should represent not only Japan but also the countries in the Asia–Pacific region. This would make the position of the *Circulation Journal* in this region equivalent to that of *Circulation*, published by the American Heart Association (AHA), in America and the *European Heart Journal*, published by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), in Europe (**Figure 1**). Indeed, the goal of our editorial team is to enhance the scientific and internationalization levels of the *Circulation Journal*.

1. Official 2010 Impact Factor

As I have previously reported, the *Circulation Journal* earned an official 2010 impact factor (IF) of 3.225, which places it 38th among the 114 journals in the Cardiac & Cardiovascular Systems category in the 2010 JCR Science Edition (**Figure 1**). I hope that the Journal's IF will further increase this year, approaching the levels of *Circulation* and the *European Heart Journal* in the near future.

2. International Editorial Team

The editorial team of the *Circulation Journal* consists of 34 Japanese associate editors, 80 Japanese editorial board members, 16 international associate editors, and 27 international advisory board members. All of the international associate editors and advisory board members are internationally recognized cardiovascular researchers, substantially contributing to the enhancing of the Journal's scientific and internationalization levels. I deeply appreciate their valuable contributions.

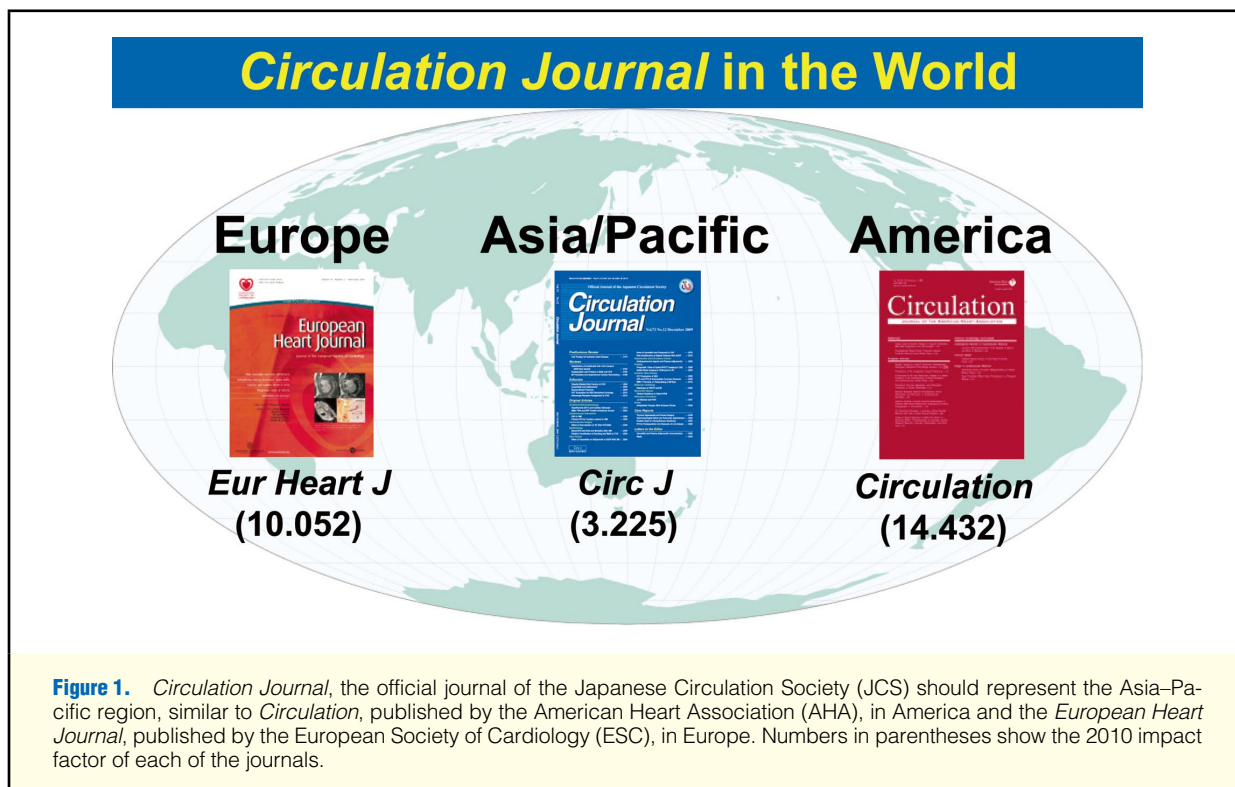




Figure 2. For the second international editorial meeting of the *Circulation Journal*, a total of 32 Japanese and foreign associate editors attended and exchanged opinions on how to enhance the scientific and internationalization levels of the Journal. The meeting was very successful. Please visit the homepage of the JCS (<http://www.j-circ.or.jp/english/>).

3. International Editorial Board Meeting

We held the second international editorial board meeting in Orlando on November 14 (Monday) 2011 during the 2011 AHA annual scientific meeting. A total of 32 Japanese and international associate editors attended and exchanged opinions on how to enhance the scientific and internationalization levels of the Journal (**Figure 2**). The meeting was again very successful, with many valuable opinions exchanged in a friendly atmosphere. I am convinced that the internationalization of the Journal is truly increasing.

4. Series of Introductions to Cardiology Societies in the Asian/Pacific Region

In order to enhance partnerships with other Cardiology Societies in the Asian/Pacific region, this year we will commence a series introducing a number of Societies, including those from Korea, China, Taiwan, Turkey, India, Singapore, Australia/New Zealand, Malaysia and Israel.

5. Review Series by Internationally Recognized Cardiovascular Scientists

For the year 2012, a total of 37 leading cardiovascular scientists have kindly agreed to write a review article for the *Circulation Journal*. I also appreciate their valuable contribution to the Journal.

6. International Information Service

In addition to our free on-line journal system with J-Stage, we provide an international e-mail service that every month informs ~6,000 foreign cardiovascular researchers of the contents of the current issue of the Journal.

7. Presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting of Major Cardiovascular Societies

Each year, during the annual scientific meetings of the major cardiovascular societies, such as the AHA, ACC, and ESC, JCS presents a booth where information about the *Circulation Journal* is provided for attendees.

Our International Editorial Team would greatly appreciate your continuous support and contribution to the Journal in our endeavors to enhance its scientific and internationalization levels.

Hiroaki Shimokawa, MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief
Circulation Journal

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