

***Circulation Journal* welcomes a new editor-in-chief and looks back on recent achievements**

Circulation Journal, the official journal of the Japanese Circulation Society, is welcoming [a new editorial team](#) headed by renowned cardiologist Toyoaki Murohara, M.D., Ph. D. of Nagoya University. This is the first change in editorial leadership since the appointment of Hiroaki Shimokawa of Tohoku University eight years ago. Murohara, a world leader in the study of the role of angiogenesis in the regulation of vascular homeostasis, is the third editor-in-chief of *Circulation Journal* since it re-launched under its current title in 2001.

Under Shimokawa's direction, *Circulation Journal* saw tremendous growth and increased international presence. This was reflected in the [near-doubling of the journal's impact factor](#) from 2.373 to 4.124 in the period between 2007 and 2015, the most recent date for which data are available, placing it in the top quartile of all cardiovascular research journals internationally. These achievements represent the outcomes of [substantial changes in journal policy](#) instituted by Shimokawa in 2009, including a greater focus on experimental science, a new series of review articles, stronger representation of cardiovascular research from neighboring countries in Asia, and an easier-to-read and more attractive publishing format. Since its inception as the *Japanese Circulation Journal* in 1968, the journal has published nearly 20,000 articles.

Shimokawa, known internationally for his work in coronary atherosclerosis and vasospasm, also helped [assemble a prestigious international editorial board](#), forged [stronger ties with major circulation research journals](#) in other countries, and contributed greatly to the Japanese cardiovascular research community through lectures and columns on [preparing their work for publication](#) in medical and scientific journals. He also helped to usher in and publish an influential series of [JCS guidelines](#) on research and practice in areas ranging from electrophysiology studies to disaster medicine.

Under Murohara, who has headed the new editorial team since July of this year, *Circulation Journal* looks to accelerate its current momentum and to explore new directions for the publication of high-quality reports and reviews from the forefront of cardiovascular science. A renewed emphasis on attracting submissions from Asian countries and alternative publishing formats are on the agenda for discussion and development.

Published on 7th October, 2016
Circulation Journal