The EHJ’s new impact factor is 15.2 – surpassing Circulation and solid no. 2 worldwide

Thomas F. Lüscher, Jeroen J. Bax, Suzanne Dedecke, Bernard J. Gersh, Gerhard Hindricks, Johanna Huggler, Ulf Landmesser, Amelia Meier, Sam Rogers, Frank Ruschitzka, William Wijns
Editorial Office, Zurich Heart House – Foundation for Cardiovascular Research, Careum Campus, Zurich, Switzerland

The Beginning
The European Heart Journal was founded by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) in 1980 as its first flagship journal [1]. Starting with Desmond G. Julian as Editor-in-Chief – and with no impact factor – the journal slowly grew in importance and scientific impact thanks to the efforts and of the founding editor and subsequent editors Henry E. Külbertus, Kim Fox and Franz van de Werf [2].

A novel strategy
The strategy of the current editorial team was global, with the intention to make the European Heart Journal a truly international journal [3]. This has led to an unforeseen growth in the number of manuscripts submitted to international journals [4]. The number of manuscripts submitted annually to the European Heart Journal has increased from a few hundred in the 1980s to around 3500 today [5]. Early on, it was obvious to us that the journal could be run only by an international team, which is why we invited deputy editors and associate editors from the US, Canada, Asia, Australia and Africa. Similarly, the editorial board was complemented by recognised cardiologists and scientists from all over the world.

Influence and Impact
Scientific journals played and continue to play a crucial role in the progress of medicine and research. There have been several attempts to measure the quality, importance and influence of a journal. Obviously, high quality scientific publishing is a must [7]. The peer-review process attempts to ensure the quality and originality of manuscripts. This requires that editors and their peers, ideally three or more reviewers, provide a prompt, constructive and unbiased assessment of the submitted work. While not perfect, the peer review process is a good solution, and better

Figure 1: The editors of the European Heart Journal.

Finally, downloads represent for practicing cardiologists, citations represent for scientists. While the former reflects influence, the latter is a measure of impact on scientific process [II]. Only data that are cited contribute to progress as they stimulate the work of colleagues and competitors. The most common measure of this is the impact factor, although other measures have been proposed as well. The impact factor of a given journal is the average number of citations received by indexed publications per paper published in the journal (published during the two preceding years), divided by the total number of citable items. In this context, citable items are research articles and clinical reviews – but not editorials, short editorial, the Editor-in-Chief of the European Heart Journal: look back with pride. Eur Heart J. 2012;33(10):1061–71.


Such an impressive success was only achievable with an excellent and devoted team of deputy editors, associate editors, managing editors and reviewers from all over the world. Indeed, we are fortunate to work with enthusiastic and experienced colleagues who provide balanced judgment and devote their time to helping us select the best papers. With this short editorial, the Editor-in-Chief of the European Heart Journal would like to thank all those who contributed to this success for the benefit of our readers, our society, the research community at large, and eventually our patients.

References


Correspondence:
Thomas F. Lüscher, FRCP, FESC, FACC, FAHA
Editor-in-Chief, European Heart Journal
Zürich Heart House
Moussonstreet 4
CH - 8091 Zürich
Switzerland
Cardiotfl@gmx.ch