

Editorial, Issue: September 2017

It is a great honor for me to be reappointed by the Anatolian Journal of Cardiology, where I have worked as an assistant editor for a long time, as an editor. I have taken this post over from my dear colleague Zeki Öngen, who has made great contributions to our journal. This is an obligatory reassignment resulted from Zeki Öngen's notification that he would not be able to maintain his editor's position. I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Turkish Society of Cardiology for deeming me worthy of this challenging, but honorable, post.

Our journal began publishing studies in 2011 and has achieved great success through the editorship, and then the editor-in-chief position, of Prof. Bilgin Timuralp, with whom I was honored to work. Our journal began being indexed in SCI-expanded in 2007, a short time after it began publishing, and it has improved its impact factor every year. There is no doubt about Mr. Timuralp's statement at the end of our journal's first-issue: "The success of a journal is based on the quality of the submitted papers. However, I am of the opinion that, regarding success, the contributions of the editors and their assistants are as important as are the papers submitted. The fact that our journal achieved a success in a short time indicates importance of the journal's editor.

Cardiology is perhaps the medical field served by the highest number of scientific journals. According to the Journal Citation Reports based on the Web of Science, there are 126 journals listed under "Cardiology & Cardiovascular Systems". The number is actually higher, considering the cardiology journals that are not indexed in SCI, and those unpublished, web-based journals that have been increasingly growing in number. This shows how great is the competition among scientific publications in cardiology. The Anatolian Journal of Cardiology has a satisfactory place among the journals in its field; with its impact factor improving every year, its position will be higher every passing year.

In this issue of the Anatolian Journal of Cardiology, nine research articles are included. It is a pleasure that studies on basic sciences have an important place among them. Although we, as clinicians, aren't enthusiastic about reading basic studies, the development of medicine is enhanced by such studies.

Our journal's receiving such studies which indicates the interest of researchers who work either in the basic science or clinical science fields. Case reports and original images are the contributions that allow us to benefit from other cardiologists' experiences; however, these contributed only in a limited way to the science of cardiology. Being short in length and interesting allows such publications to be widely read. These features have caused many journals that did not appreciate the value of such texts in the beginning to publish original images. Sometimes a physician may not read all the research articles in an issue because they are not of interest; however, many readers are interested in original images or case reports.

Cardiology textbooks, such as Braunwald and Hurst, were much read in the past. Relevant explanations included in textbooks were frequently referred to while discussing a topic among colleagues. These books used to be republished every four or five years, and new editions were immediately provided. Textbooks are no longer read—the most important reason being the initiation of guideline publication. Guidelines are useful for implementation of evidence-based medicine. However, it is especially disappointing that assistants' education has begun to be based only on guidelines and that books are no longer read—just the guidelines. Because guidelines are prepared based on suggestions for treatment, pathophysiological and clinical information is only included to a minor degree, causing this information to be rather superficial. Furthermore, many diseases and clinical issues are not adequately addressed in guidelines. Reviews published by journals play an important role in closing this gap. These articles written by experienced researchers make great contributions to knowledge in the field: they are particularly useful in clinical settings where rapid changes are occurring. I recommend my colleagues to not only read guidelines, but also these reviews at least during a time when textbooks are not being used as a source of information.

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