



Dear readers,

October 2018 is probably one the most important issues of the Archives of the Turkish Society of Cardiology. It is a special issue to celebrate the 50th year of the Journal focusing on the epidemiology of atherosclerotic risk factors in Turkey. It contains meta-analysis of the most important national epidemiological studies conducted on cardiovascular risk factors within the recent 15 years and aims to be a reference for everyone working on these risk factors. I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Mahmut Şahin and Prof. Lale Tokgözoğlu for initiating this project, to Prof. Mustafa Kılıçkap for his incredible effort to perform such a detailed work, to Prof. Necla Özer, Prof. Adnan Abacı, Prof. Cem Barçın, Prof. Meral Kayıkçıoğlu, Prof. Mehmet Birhan Yılmaz, Dr. Hüseyin Göksülük and Dr. Doruk Karaaslan for their efforts at every stage of the project from planning to publication, to Prof. İlhan Satman, Prof. Mustafa Arıcı, Prof. Bülent Altun, Prof. Gültekin Süleymanlar, Prof. Şule Şengül, Prof. Yavuz Sanisoğlu, Prof. Kürşat Gündoğan, Prof. Fahri Bayram, Prof. Kenan Ateş, Prof. Turgay Arınsoy and Prof. Yunus Erdem for sharing their data and helping us in the interpretation of the results. I also would like to thank Prof. Aytekin Oğuz for sharing the PURE Turkey results for the first time in an article and to Prof. Hüsniye Yüksel for summarizing the main findings of our landmark epidemiological study, namely TARF study.

Fifty years ago, the first issue of the Archives Society of Cardiology, the first ever journal in the field of cardiovascular sciences in Turkey, was published in Istanbul. Issue 1 of volume 1 started with a preamble stating the main aim of the Turkish Society of Cardiology was to follow and promote research, studies and progress in the field of cardiovascular sciences. Among the 17 articles of the first issue, the covered topics varied from heart failure to arrhythmias, rheumatic heart diseases and ischemic heart diseases. We were very surprised to notice an article on the epidemiology of ischemic heart diseases in Turkey authored by Prof. Ali Ekmekçi that astonishingly fitted to the context of this special issue. You may find the facsimile of the article at the end of the issue. Information in the article will be very interesting for those working on the atherosclerotic risk factors. Prof. Ekmekçi reported cardiovascular diseases as the main cause of mortality with a prevalence of 46.5–53.5% between years 1961-1963 in Turkey. This ratio decreased to 39.7% in 2017, which may be considered a success of our cardiologists considering our aging population and increased number of patients with ischemic heart diseases. Fifty years later, the scope of the Journal is essentially the same, supporting education and research activities in cardiology, endorsing current management strategies to health professionals and focusing on the epidemiological facts of our population trying to create a discussion platform on cardiovascular diseases.

Over the last 50 years, the Journal has had only three Editors-in-Chief, namely Prof. Altan Onat (1988-2005), Prof. Vedat Sansoy (2005–2016), and Prof. Dilek Ural (2016–). The first editor of the journal, Prof. Altan Onat, was a legendary scientist in epidemiology and risk factors of cardiovascular diseases. During his editorship, the journal has become one of the best quality academic journals in our country. The second editor, Prof. Vedat Sansoy, followed his path and created a very active scientific journal that has been indexed by PubMed, SCOPUS and Emerging Sources Citation Index. I consider it a great chance and honour to celebrate the 50th anniversary during my editorship, despite being the youngest and shortest-serving among them.

Undoubtly, our authors who share their work and experience with readers, our referees who evaluate the manuscripts with patience, past members of the editorial board who work with great sacrifice, our former publisher Ekin Publishing and current publisher Kare Publishing and our secretary Engin Deniz Cörüt deserve the greatest thanks. Fifty years of uninterrupted publishing could not have been achieved without their devoted work.

Prof. Dilek Ural, M.D.

*Editor-in-Chief*

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