Message From the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Editorial Team of Circulation Journal, the official journal of the Japanese Circulation Society (JCS), I would like to introduce to you our new editorial policy. Considering the high scientific level of cardiovascular medicine and research in Japan, Circulation Journal should represent not only Japan, but also countries in Asia and Oceania. This would make the position of the Journal in this region equivalent to those of Circulation, published by the American Heart Association (AHA), in America and European Heart Journal, published by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), in Europe (Fig 1). Thanks to the outstanding efforts of the former Editorial Team led by the immediate past Editor-in-Chief, Dr Masunori Matsuzaki, our impact factor has been steadily increasing over the past decade, although not yet to a satisfactory level as compared with Circulation and European Heart Journal (Fig 2). The Editorial Team will make every effort to enhance the scientific level of the Journal in 2009 as follows.

1. Changes to the Journal style
   As can be seen in this issue, we have changed the Journal style, including the cover page and content pages, to improve the visibility of information in the Journal.

2. Increased proportion of experimental papers
   We would like to increase the proportion of experimental papers (currently only ~10%). For this purpose, we will welcome submission of experimental papers with high quality and scientific impact.

3. Review article series
   We have started a new review series by internationally established researchers and the next generation in Japan as well as countries in Asia/Oceania, so that we can provide current knowledge on cardiovascular medicine and research.

Fig 1. The international position of Circulation Journal, published by the Japanese Circulation Society (JCS), in cardiovascular medicine and research. Circulation Journal should represent the Asia/Oceania region, similar to Circulation, published by the American Heart Association (AHA), in America and European Heart Journal, published by the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), in Europe. Numbers show the impact factor in 2007 of the Journals.

Fig 2. Impact factors for Circulation Journal, Circulation and European Heart Journal in the past decade. Considering the high scientific level of cardiovascular medicine and research in Japan, the impact factor of Circulation Journal should be even higher.
medicine and research to readers of the Journal.

4. Editorials
We have started an Editorial section, written by experts in their fields, in order to briefly summarize the impact and importance of selected papers to readers of the Journal.

5. Circulation Journal Awards
We will continue and expand the Circulation Journal Awards.

6. Best Reviewers of the Year
In order to facilitate the review process, and show our appreciation of the invaluable contributions from our reviewers, we will select and commend the 10 best reviewers each year.

Finally, the scientific integrity of papers published in Circulation Journal is absolutely necessary to maintain and enhance the scientific level of the Journal.

The Editorial Team greatly appreciates your continued support and contributions to Circulation Journal in our endeavor to maintain and further improve the scientific level of the Journal.

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