Dear Colleagues,

In Singapore, interest in cardiology and cardiac surgery first started in the late 1950s, early 1960s and around that time the Singapore Cardiac Society (SCS), as an affiliated Society of the Singapore Medical Association, was formed.

The present SCS was founded in 1974, with the following mission:

1. To advance the knowledge and practice of cardiovascular medicine in Singapore.
2. To promote research and publication of medical and scientific works in cardiovascular medicine.
3. To promote regional and international co-operation in cardiovascular medicine.
Today, 38 years later, we have the following membership:

(1) 144 ordinary members, consisting of 95 adult cardiologists, 5 pediatric cardiologists, 27 cardiothoracic surgeons and 17 other doctors. Several of these members currently hold key positions at the National Heart Centre, Singapore, the National University Heart Centre, Singapore and the major public and private hospitals in Singapore.

(2) 12 associate members

(3) 1 correspondence member.

The founding President of the SCS in 1974 was Dr Charles Chai-Soon Toh, who was an early pioneer of cardiology in Singapore. The next President of the Society in 1975–1976 was Dr Ngoh-Chuan Tan, who was a pioneer in the development of cardiothoracic surgery in Singapore in the 60s. The logo of the Society, which symbolizes the aspirations of the Society, was created by Dr Tan. The red part of the logo represents the arterial circulation, the blue part is the venous circulation, with the ECG in the center representing the heart (Figure 3).

The SCS has through the years participated actively in the advancement of cardiology and cardiac surgery in Singapore by holding regular continuing medical education programs, and an Annual Scientific Meeting that incorporates the Singapore Cardiac Society Lecture delivered by a leading member of the Society. In addition, it has successfully organized the 5th Asian–Pacific Congress of Cardiology in Singapore in 1972 led by Dr Charles Toh, following which he was elected President of the Asian–Pacific Society of Cardiology, and the 14th Asian–Pacific Congress of Cardiology in Singapore in 2004 led by Dr Michael Lim, following which he was also elected President of the Asian–Pacific Society of Cardiology.

The SCS was a founding member of the ASEAN Federation of Cardiology, in 1973, and has organized the 3rd, 8th and 13th ASEAN Congresses of Cardiology (all held in Singapore) in 1980, 1990 and 2000, respectively. The 19th ASEAN Congress of Cardiology is scheduled

Figure 2. Participants at a recent Singapore Cardiac Society Annual Scientific Meeting.

Figure 3. Logo of the Singapore Cardiac Society.
to be held again in Singapore in July 2012. Three of our past Presidents, Dr Ngoh-Chuan Tan, Dr Joseph Sheares and Dr Richard Ng have served as President of the ASEAN Federation of Cardiology. The ASEAN Heart Journal, which publishes scientific papers mainly from the ASEAN region, was launched in 1992. The editorial office of the Journal was based in the Philippines from 1992 to 1999, followed by Singapore from 1999 to 2007, with Dr Kean-Wah Lau and Dr Koon-Hou Mak as Editor from 1999 to 2000 and 2001 to 2007, respectively. The editorial office was then based in Thailand, but in March 2012, it has returned to Singapore with Dr Carolyn Lam as the Editor.

Beyond ASEAN and the Asia–Pacific Region, the SCS is also affiliated with the European Society of Cardiology and the World Heart Federation. Recently, the Singapore Chapter of the American College of Cardiology has been formed under the auspices of the SCS.

Since 2002, the SCS has awarded 19 scholarships for a 1-year period of post-graduate training at either the National Heart Centre, Singapore or the National University Heart Centre, Singapore to overseas fellows from Philippines, China, India and other countries. This training has mainly been in echocardiography and less frequently in interventional cardiology, electrophysiology, cardiothoracic surgery and cardiac anesthesia.

Although 38 years is a short time frame for a national society, during this period the SCS has played an important role in the spectacular growth of cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery in Singapore. We can look forward to even greater progress and it is in this spirit of optimism that the SCS feels greatly honored to have the opportunity in the near future to develop strong and lasting ties with the Japanese Circulation Society and the Circulation Journal.