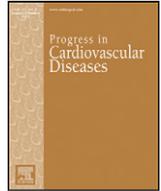




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## Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases

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## Editorial

## Continuing with Good Statistics at Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases



I took over as Editor in Chief (EIC) of Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases (PCVD) in January 2014, but actually began working on the 2014 Issues in early January 2013, so I feel as if I have been EIC for over 6.5 years. As I reviewed previously, when I took over as EIC of PCVD, our impact factor (IF) was a solid 2.4, and we increased this significantly the first several years after my 2014 and 2015 papers began to count into the 4.635, 8.177, and 6.754 levels, which was miraculous increases by most EIC standards.<sup>1,2</sup>

Up until a few years ago, I had never heard of the Elsevier Cite Score (ECS) and the last two years our ECS was 5.96 and 6.44, respectively, ranking us as 5th two years ago and 6th last year of 330 cardiovascular (CV) - related journals. Recently, the new statistics for 2018 have been released. For the ECS, this counts three years of papers (2015, 2016, 2017) cited in 2018, and counts all items, not only research articles and reviews, but also

**Table 1**

#6 Elsevier cite score rank out of 322 CV-related journals for progress in cardiovascular diseases (6.21 98th percentile).

Current source rank	Source title	Cite score 2018	Percentile
#1	Circulation	9.17	99th percentile
#2	Circulation Research	8.96	99th percentile
#3	European Heart Journal	8.07	99th percentile
#4	European Journal of Heart Failure	7.31	98th percentile
#5	Journal of the American College of Cardiology	6.43	98th percentile
#6	<b>Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases</b>	6.21	98th percentile
#7	Basic Research in Cardiology	5.59	97th percentile
#8	Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation	5.45	97th percentile
#9	Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism	5.37	97th percentile
#10	Cardiovascular Diabetology	5.22	97th percentile
#11	Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography	5.18	96th percentile
#12	Nature Reviews Cardiology	5.11	96th percentile
#13	Stroke	4.94	96th percentile
#14	Translational Stroke Research	4.87	95th percentile
#15	Circulation: Heart Failure	4.83	95th percentile
#16	Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology	4.72	95th percentile
#17	JAMA Cardiology	4.70	94th percentile
#18	Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance	4.69	94th percentile
#19	Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology	4.65	94th percentile
#20	Cardiovascular Research	4.53	93rd percentile
#21	Journal of the American Heart Association	4.44	93rd percentile
#22	European Journal of Preventive Cardiology	4.43	93rd percentile
#23	Heart Failure Reviews	4.31	93rd percentile
#24	JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging	4.10	92nd percentile
#25	Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions	4.05	92nd percentile
#25	Journal of Stroke	4.05	92nd percentile
#27	JACC: Heart Failure	4.04	91st percentile
#28	Clinical Research in Cardiology	3.86	91st percentile
#28	Resuscitation	3.86	91st percentile
#30	Chest	3.84	90th percentile

Editorial for progress in cardiovascular diseases.

**Table 2**  
2018 impact factors for the major cardiovascular journals.

Rank	Full journal title	Journal impact factor
1	European Heart Journal	23.239
2	Circulation	23.054
3	Journal of The American College of Cardiology	18.639
4	Nature Reviews Cardiology	17.42
5	Circulation Research	15.862
6	European Journal of Heart Failure	13.965
7	JAMA Cardiology	11.866
8	JACC-Cardiovascular Imaging	10.975
9	JACC-Cardiovascular Interventions	9.544
10	JACC-Heart Failure	8.91
11	Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation	8.578
12	Cardiovascular Research	7.014
13	European Heart Journal-Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy	6.723
14	Circulation-Heart Failure	6.526
15	Basic Research in Cardiology	6.47
16	<b>Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases</b>	6.162
17	Journal of The American Society of Echocardiography	6.111
18	Europace	6.1
19	Circulation-Cardiovascular Interventions	6.06
20	Cardiovascular Diabetology	5.948
21	Circulation-Cardiovascular Imaging	5.813
22	European Journal of Preventive Cardiology	5.64
23	Canadian Journal of Cardiology	5.592
24	Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery	5.261
25	European Heart Journal-Cardiovascular Imaging	5.26
26	Heart Rhythm	5.225
27	Revista Espanola De Cardiologia	5.126
28	Heart	5.082
29	Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance	5.07
30	Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology	5.055

commentaries, editorials, introductions to the Issue, and even letters to the editor. Since we were losing the important contributions of the January 2014, Obesity Issue, the highest cited Issue all-time for PCVD, I expected that our ESC would fall this year. Although I was correct, noting that we fell from a score of 6.44 now to 6.21, the fall was not as great as I anticipated, as we remained with a quite solid score and maintained a solid 6th place rating among 330 CV - related journals (Table 1).

For the IF, I knew that last year our IF would fall without the 2014 Obesity Issue (the IF counts only two years of papers and does not count editorials, commentaries, or letters to the editor in the denominator), and we fell from 8.177 to a still quite solid 6.754, and our ranking among CV Journals fell from 9th to 14th, leaving us in still quite solid company among the very elite CV Journals. I was uncertain what would happen for the 2018 IF, as we were now losing our excellent and very highly cited 2015 physical activity (PA) Issue. However, we had a very excellent group of Issues in 2017 (the 2018 IF counts papers published in 2016 and 2017 and cited in 2018), and we also published a very highly cited 2017 Issue on Physical Activity, Exercise and Fitness in CV Diseases (CVD),<sup>3-13</sup> and other highly cited papers in 2017.<sup>14,15</sup> My suspicion was that we would maintain a very solid IF, but I was not certain if the 2018 one would be a bit higher or lower than the 2017 one. Therefore, our current IF of 6.162 remains quite solid and leaves us with a very solid ranking of 16th among the CV Journals (Table 2).

The upcoming year also seems to be very promising. As for the ECS, the overall papers for 2016, 2017, and 2018 are quite good, including a very excellent Obesity and CVD Issue in 2018,<sup>16-26</sup> which may not do as well as did the 2014 one, but should also become one of the most cited Issues ever for PCVD.

We also had an excellent Dietary and CVD Issue,<sup>27-35</sup> and other excellent ones in 2018.<sup>36</sup>

Likewise, the IF may be even in a better position, as I believe that the 2018 Issues will be better than what the 2016 ones were. Regardless, the PCVD line-up in recent and upcoming Issues are very strong and should keep our statistics very competitive for years to come.

Finally, as I have said in the past, almost every EIC cares about the statistical metrics of their Journal's success. However, this pressure only comes from myself, as Elsevier clearly only wants a good product that is valuable to the CV community and to our potential readership. Certainly, many of the Journal statistics can be quite misleading. I personally feel that the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC), where I have served on the Editorial Board for over a decade, is by far the top CV Journal, but the current statistics, at least from the ECS and IF, do not clearly show this (Tables 1 and 2). However, JACC mostly cares about the "clinical impact" and having great material for the readership and to help the clinicians, as well as the clinical scientists, and their famous EIC, Valentin Fuster, MD, MACC, has not emphasized these statistics, as he has discussed in recent Editorials,<sup>37,38</sup> nor have they participated with "padding" their statistics. Nevertheless, JACC still has a quite exceptional IF of 18.64. Likewise, without our readers who are interested in the PCVD excellent clinical content, it really would not matter much about the specific details of the IF/ECS or other statistical metrics that EICs like myself follow so closely.

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