Introduction and Vision

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I am honored and humbled to be named the new Editor-in-Chief of Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy. Replacing Professor Remme after 19 years of outstanding leadership is an immense challenge.

Shortly after Professor Remme became Editor-in-Chief in 2001 I published my first manuscript in the journal [1]. There were, at that time, many attractive journal features for a contributor: no limitation on word count or number of references, no publication fees or extra cost for color illustrations, and most importantly, a constructive, supportive and fair reviewing process. As a young clinician-scientist, that aspect was particularly important to me. Over the next 19 years, I have published 25 manuscripts in the journal. As noted by Professor Remme in his last editorial, the impact factor of the journal has increased from 1.009 in 2001 to 4.181 in 2018 [2], which may be attributed in large part to Professor Remme's leadership.

Professor Remme and I share the same vision for the journal that includes publication of high-quality manuscripts and reviews dealing with all aspects of cardiovascular therapy, including searching for novel pathways and mediators using experimental animal models, expanding our knowledge on the mechanisms of action of existing drugs, exploring the effects of drug combination, clinical studies (including original prospective and retrospective studies, exploration of effects in subpopulations, drug combination, novel indications, and meta-analyses), studies of devices (including pacemakers, defibrillators, stents), and surgical techniques.

We also share the vision that the review process should be fast, fair, and constructive.

In order to meet the above-mentioned goals, the journal depends on the dedicated support of the Associate Editors, members of the Editorial Board and the reviewers, who all graciously supply their time and expertise without

compensation. As the journal is aiming to accommodate manuscripts of diverse topics related to cardiovascular therapy, it relies on the dedicated help of numerous experts. I am aware that every scientist, researcher and clinician-scientist is under pressure to obtain grants, publish, teach and/or do administrative or clinical work. Most reviewers are also engaged in reviewing manuscripts for other journals. While the time allocated for reviewing manuscripts has shortened, many of the manuscripts have become more complex. Proper review requires time and effort. The dedicated work of the reviewers cannot be underestimated, and we are grateful for their efforts.

As the impact factor of the journal has increased, so has the number of submissions. This increases the challenge to maintain quality while sustaining efficiency which has been a long-standing feature of the journal. In order to keep providing rapid and high-quality review of papers for such a vast scope of topics, the journal will expand its Editorial Board and reviewer pool to include experts who are willing to contribute by reviewing manuscripts (while keeping the spirit of the journal and high level of review) and contribute papers in all fields of cardiovascular therapies. We will continue to welcome suggestions for expansion of the Editorial Board from its present members.

We take this moment to thank the reviewers and Editorial Board members who have been so instrumental in bringing the journal to this point and the new reviewers and Editorial Board members who will continue the high-quality reviews. The journal is especially fortunate that Professor Remme has agreed to serve as a Senior Editor of the Journal and continue contributing his wisdom, judgment and experience.

The Journal's success also depends on the Publisher's support. I have started working with Mrs. Lisa Aquilino and Ms. Maria Rhea Perilla-Bainto and I found them both extremely efficient and professional.

In conclusion, I am honored to have been named the Editor-in-Chief of Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy. I am particular grateful to Professor Remme for his inspirational leadership over the past 19 years. It will be a big challenge to sustain and grow this journal which has come so far under Professor Remme. I will not be able to succeed without the

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help of the journal team, the Associate Editors, members of the Editorial Board and the reviewers. I am welcoming communications, suggestions for special issues, original manuscripts, and reviews. And above all, I hope you, the readers, will help me maintain the success and the spirit of the journal created under Professor Remme.

With best personal wishes in the New Year,
Yochai Birnbaum, MD

References

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