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Arteriosclerosis: the first 10 years

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Arteriosclerosis: The First 10 Years

This issue marks the completion of volume 10 and, with it, the first 10 years of the journal's existence. The founding Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors have been privileged and honored to have been able to shepherd the journal through its conception, gestation, birth pains, infancy, growth, and adolescence. At the end of our second 5-year term, we are confident that the journal is reaching full maturity, and we are delighted to pass the stewardship to our highly qualified successors, led by Dr. Alan Fogelman, the new Editor.

How does one measure growth and success? Our state-of-the-art reviews on frontier issues have been well received. Editorials have provided a lively interchange of varying points of view on key issues. The publication of all the abstracts submitted to the Arteriosclerosis and Thrombosis Councils and Nutrition Committee before the annual American Heart Association Scientific Sessions has been popular, particularly with younger investigators. The number of published original research articles has grown to 103 in the six issues of 1990 compared with only 31 in 1981. The number of submitted manuscripts continues to grow by more than 10% a year, accelerated by the opening of our European Office under joint auspices with the European Artery Club (now the European Association of Vascular Biology). The European Editor, Dr. Göran Bondjers, will continue his term until 1992. Approximately 40% of our submitted papers come from beyond U.S. borders, most of these from Europe and Japan, testimony to the impressive international growth of the field. Thanks largely to the loosening of page constraints, we have maintained an acceptance rate of about 40% to 45% and are publishing, in a timely fashion, the highest quality papers.

Another measure of the journal's success is its influence on the field of arteriosclerosis and thrombosis research, as judged by the "impact factor" from the Journal Citation Reports published by the Institute for Scientific Information. Since our third year of publication, the citation frequency of our papers has ranked us among the top 100 life sciences journals and third among the five major American Heart Association journals.

An important goal for the journal has been to be truly interdisciplinary, and it is clear that this has been true from the outset. Nevertheless, the journal will be fully successful only when there is maximum participation from all the disciplines involved in the study of arteriosclerosis and its complications. Some time ago, it became clear that the journal was not attracting many of the best papers in the rapidly advancing field of thrombosis as it relates to arteriosclerosis. Beginning with the efforts of our first Associate Editor for thrombosis, Laurence Harker, and continuing with the current Associate Editor, James White, attempts were made to attract more papers in thrombosis research. Thus, in 1984 the title of the journal was changed to include thrombosis in the subtitle. Now, the first issue of 1991 will boast a new title: *Arteriosclerosis and Thrombosis: A Journal of Vascular Biology*. Dr. Jack Hawiger will be the journal's first Co-editor for thrombosis. We believe that more excellent articles in this area, as well as more subscriptions, will be a welcome sequel to the title change.

The journal has been in the forefront of the striking advances in arteriosclerosis and thrombosis research during this past decade, particularly in the revolutionary discoveries in molecular and cell biology, and the journal articles and reviews have documented these advances. A comparison of the articles in *Arteriosclerosis*, Volume 1, 1981, and those in 1990 is enlightening. The articles in that first volume dealt with the classical major risk factors for coronary heart disease, feeding studies in nonhuman primates, cholesterol and lipoprotein metabolism by cultured cells, and flow studies in arterial wall models. Although the distribution of manuscripts received among research areas has remained constant, the articles published this year reflect the rapid progress made in our understanding of various components of the process of atherogenesis. The nature of the cells involved in this process, the cellular interactions that take place, and, in particular, the regulation of smooth muscle, endothelium, monocyte-derived macrophages, and T cells in atherosclerosis have

provided fertile soil that has produced a number of important papers published by the journal. Papers on growth-regulatory molecules involved in atherogenesis and thrombosis have been published. The role of oxidized low density lipoprotein as an important factor in atherogenesis, as well as other mechanisms for foam cell formation in macrophages, have been explored in several issues of the journal.

An understanding of the molecular basis of genetic defects in familial disorders of lipid metabolism has enhanced our understanding of how atherogenesis may be accelerated. The structure of lipoproteins, their lipid and apolipoprotein composition, their genetic control, and their interaction with the cells of the artery wall and blood and with artery wall components have received a great deal of attention. In addition, the homology between Lp(a) and plasminogen was uncovered, further enhancing the link between atherosclerosis and thrombosis, and articles documenting the finding of Lp(a) in arterial lesions appeared in the journal. Another link in the emerging relationship between triglyceride levels and Factor VII-related clotting activity in coronary heart disease was recently covered in the journal. With the expansion of the field into molecular biology, the journal now has a wide range of articles covering cell and molecular biology.

The journal also has served an important function by publishing many papers dealing not only with arteriosclerosis-related topics in molecular genetics but also in the fields of genetic epidemiology and classical epidemiology.

Thus, by a variety of measures, the journal has achieved the goal of becoming the vehicle for dissemination of the highest quality, cutting edge research in the field, and virtually all the major groups in the world working in the many different subdisciplines related to arteriosclerosis have published in the journal.

We are deeply indebted to our dedicated Editorial Board, excellent and diligent peer reviewers, and the members of the scientific community, who have given us support at all levels. We are very grateful to the AHA Scientific Publishing Committee, who have been most generous in giving us the freedom necessary to develop the journal, to Vicki Sullivan, the Director, and her staff of the AHA Scientific Publishing Office and last, but not least, to the indefatigable and dedicated efforts of Alayne Van Dyck, our Managing Editor throughout the past 10 years.

We will miss the editorship of *Arteriosclerosis* and the close interactions we have had with authors and reviewers. These invaluable collegial associations will undoubtedly remain as lasting personal benefits. We look forward to enjoying the pleasures of proud parents and grandparents as the journal moves into the final decade of the 20th century.

Edwin L. Bierman, Editor

Arno G. Motulsky

Russell Ross

James G. White, Associate Editors

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