

Heart, Lung and Vessels... but brain and hands too! The case for a novel journal in the cardiovascular scholarly arena

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*“The hand is the visible part of the brain.”
Immanuel Kant*

The scientific literature includes thousands of journals on an extremely wide variety of topics. The electronic open access publication framework has revolutionized in the last years the way of disseminating scientific culture (1, 2). Scientific journals are now easily and rapidly available and sometimes the fast dissemination of scientific evidence makes hard to remain abreast of the most recent scholarly developments (3). Yet, the vast majority of the medical journals is strictly confined to specialized topics and in most cases the individual skills are well separated to each other.

In the field of anesthesiology, cardiovascular medicine, intensive care and resuscitation there are many renowned international journals (4) (Table 1). *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* provides original coverage of recent progress in chest and cardiovascular surgery. It is the official journal of two of the largest American association in its specialty and maintains rigorous selection standard. *Circulation* is the journal of the American Heart Association (AHA). The journal publishes articles related to research in and the practice of cardio-

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Table 1 - Key features of selected journal focusing on anesthesiology, cardiovascular medicine, intensive care and resuscitation.

Journal	Focus	Papers *	IF	Fee	Acceptance rate
American Heart Journal	Cardiovascular medicine	320	4.463	Yes	NA
American Journal of Cardiology	Cardiology	824	3.209	Yes	NA
Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine	Anesthesiology	145	1.296	No	NA
Anesthesiology	Anesthesiology	495	5.879	No	NA
Annals of Thoracic Surgery	Cardiovascular surgery	1557	3.849	No	NA
British Medical Journal	Medicine	3211	17.445	Yes	7 %
Circulation	Cardiovascular medicine	926	14.430	Yes	11 %
Critical Care Medicine	Critical care medicine	2000	6.31	Yes	NA
Current Opinion in Organ Transplantation	Medicine	93	2.88	Yes	NA
Echocardiography	Cardiology	482	1.254		NA
European Heart Journal	Cardiovascular medicine	826	15.203	Yes	NA
European Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery	Cardiac and thoracic surgery	863	3.304	Yes	NA
Heart	Cardiovascular medicine	488	5.595	Yes	14 %
Heart and Lung: the Journal of Acute and Critical Care	Cardiac and pulmonary disease	147	1.290	Yes	NA
Heart and Vessels	Cardiology, angiology	268	2.065	Yes	NA
International Journal of Cardiology	Cardiology	2420	4.036	No	NA
International journal of cardiovascular imaging	Cardiovascular imaging	278	1.810	Yes	NA
Journal of the American Heart Association	Cardiovascular medicine	378	4.306	Yes	NA
Journal of the American Medical Association	Medicine	4083	35.289	No	9.5 %
Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography	Cardiovascular imaging	226	4.056	Yes	NA
Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia	Anesthesiology	461	1.463	Yes	NA
Journal of Cardiovascular Medicine	Cardiovascular medicine	256	1.510	Yes	NA
Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery	Cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgery	203	1.461	No	NA
Journal of Endovascular Therapy	Vascular surgery	131	3.353	Yes	NA
Journal of Heart and Lung transplantation	Cardiopulmonary transplantation	330	6.650	Yes	5-8 %
Journal of the American College of Cardiology	Cardiology	1046	16.503	No	10 %
Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery	Cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgery	1427	4.168	Yes	NA
Lancet	Medicine	1742	45.217	No	5 %
Minerva Anestesiologica	Anesthesiology	322	2.134	Yes	NA
Minerva Cardioangiologica	Cardiac and vascular disease	81	0.530	Yes	NA
Neurology	Neurology	1196	8.286	Yes	NA
New England Journal of Medicine	Medicine	1564	55.873	Yes	6 %
PLOS Medicine	Medicine	189	14.429	Yes	NA
PLOS ONE	Science and medicine	33.000	3.234	Yes	69 %
Resuscitation	Acute care medicine	520	4.167	No	NA
Stroke	Medicine, Surgery	835	5.723	Yes	18 %

vascular diseases and covers all the topic of cardiology, from epidemiology and prevention to heart failure, arrhythmia and electrophysiology, hypertension, cardiovascular genetics, cardiovascular interventions, cardiovascular quality and outcome, and cardiovascular imaging. Moreover, AHA guidelines also appear in this journal.

Critical Care Medicine is the premier peer-reviewed, scientific publication in critical care medicine. It is the Official Journal of the Society of Critical Care Medicine. The journal covers all aspects of acute and emergency care for the critically ill or injured patient. The *European Heart Journal* is an official journal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). The aim of the journal is to publish the highest quality material on all aspects of cardiovascular medicine. It includes articles related to research findings, reviews, clinical perspectives, editorials, and ESC guidelines. All these noted journals cover strictly cardiovascular topics.

The *Journal of American College of Cardiology (JACC)* publishes peer-reviewed articles highlighting all aspects of cardiovascular disease, including original clinical studies, experimental investigations with clear clinical relevance, state-of-the-art papers and viewpoints. Also this journal frequently features guidelines from the American College of Cardiology (ACC). The *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia (JCVA)* is addressed to anesthesiologists who deal with patients undergoing surgical procedures. JCVA offer a multidisciplinary approach, with contributions from cardiac, vascular and thoracic surgeons, cardiologists, and other related specialists. *Neurology* is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The journal's aim is to advance the field by presenting new basic and clinical research emphasizing knowledge on neurological practice.

Resuscitation is an interdisciplinary journal for the dissemination of clinical and basic science research relating to acute care medicine and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. It is the official Journal of the European Resuscitation Council. The journal content is of interest to healthcare professionals working in critical care, emergency medicine, acute medicine, anaesthesia, cardiology and paediatrics. *Stroke* publishes reports of clinical and basic investigation of any aspect of the cerebral circulation and its diseases from many disciplines, including anesthesiology, critical care medicine, internal medicine, neurology, neurosurgery, nuclear medicine, radiology, rehabilitation, and vascular surgery. In this large and complex scenario *Heart, Lung and Vessels* enters quite boldly. Indeed, *Heart, Lung and Vessels* is a peer-reviewed open access academic journal founded in 2009 and which has already published 269 papers. It aims to improve diagnostic and therapeutic skills of clinicians within different specialties which are nonetheless strictly interrelated each other. The journal considers for publication Original Articles, Teaching Articles, Brief Reports, Reviews, Meta-Analyses, Expert Opinions, Editorials, Case Reports, Case Series, Letters to the Editor and Images in Clinical Medicine on all topics related to cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, intensive care and anesthesia together with cardiology, emergency and methodological papers. The journal combines the interests of more specialists and allows physicians of these areas to be updated on topics related to their specialties but not strictly confined to it. The Editorial Board Members are renowned specialists in the field of cardiology, pediatric cardiology, cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, intensive care, anesthesia, transplantation and immunology, new technologies, echocardiography, imaging and social media.

So, what advantages may have a journal that brings together more skills and specialties? First of all the ability to create a scientific network among multiple specialties, different but often related to each other. Secondly, the opportunity for the reader to be fully updated on topics of relevant clinical and scientific interest ranging across multiple specialties in the field of intensive care, emergency treatment and major surgical operations.

The aim of the journal in fact is to contribute to the spread of knowledge in these specific fields of interest (5).

So, who would benefit from submitting a manuscript to the *Heart, Lung and Vessels*? Any researcher reporting an original article, a brief report, a review or also a meta-analysis in these medical fields is invited to submit his or her work to the *Heart, Lung and Vessels* as well as anyone wishing to appraise important surgical and medical issue through confrontation with specialists from multiple disciplines. Accordingly, anyone concerned to this fields of interests should read regularly *Heart, Lung and Vessels*.

Heart, Lung and Vessels is dedicated to become an influential journal among these fields, to promote the development of the above disciplines and to improve the diagnostic and therapeutic skills and expertise of surgeons and clinicians.

In as much as a good clinician aptly combines cognitive and manual skills, by relying on both his or her brain and hands, we are positive that the uniquely favorable combination of clinicians and researchers with expertise on heart, lung and vessels in such a journal will ensure its success and meritorious standing in the scholarly field.

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