

# Welcome to Cardiovascular Research in 2015

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Research in cardiovascular biology and disease is influenced by the changing landscape in biomedical and health research. Increased demands for innovation, translation, and implementation of novel findings into patient care are reflected in growth of publications and journals with more clinical and translational content, and more emphasis on the potential impact of basic and preclinical research in basic science reports. At the same time there has been an exciting growth of pure exploratory basic research, related to technological innovation, e.g. advanced microscopy, rewarded with the 2014 Nobel Prize.<sup>1</sup> Novel concepts in cardiovascular biology have increasingly been presented in multidisciplinary biology journals such as *Nature* and *Cell*. This could potentially create dichotomy between the basic science and clinical communities, further amplified by concerns on a stagnating number of physician-scientists. *Cardiovascular Research* has positioned itself as an overarching journal and wishes to promote the dialogue and interaction between basic, translational, and clinical research. In 2014 the journal published two focus and spotlight issues that reflected this concept. The Spotlight Issue 'Pregnancy-mediated Heart & Vascular Disease' highlighted both the clinical presentation and clinical studies,<sup>2,3</sup> and the mechanistic concepts and insights.<sup>4–6</sup> The Spotlight Issue 'HDL Biology: New Insights in Metabolism, Function, and Translation', addressed the apparent failure of translation during randomized studies of HDL-C raising approaches, despite substantial prospective observational, *in vitro* and *in vivo* mechanistic studies supporting the expected benefit. Expert reviews in this issue presented current knowledge and new insights on the many functional roles of HDL and their clinical relevance.<sup>7–16</sup> A third Spotlight issue focused more on novel mechanistic studies examining cell–cell interactions in the heart in heart failure and ischaemic heart disease.<sup>17</sup> In the beginning of 2015 the journal will publish a focus issue on sarcomeric cardiomyopathies that again will span from clinical data to mechanistic studies and novel bench approaches using patient-specific iPSCs ([http://cardiovascres.oxfordjournals.org/spotlight\\_issues.html](http://cardiovascres.oxfordjournals.org/spotlight_issues.html)). The journal will continue in this track of providing a forum from research spanning from basic to clinical, emphasizing the dialogue and translation.

The journal will also follow up on the concerns of reliability and reproducibility that may be involved in failure of translation.<sup>18</sup> Further improvements in data presentation and quality control will be part of the updated instructions to authors and will be implemented during the review process. Position papers from expert groups, such as on cardioprotection in cardiac ischaemia, can contribute to improve transla-

tion by better defining research approaches.<sup>19,20</sup> The journal is open to publishing viewpoints on research strategy and policy relevant to cardiovascular research and more overarching issues.

In 2015 we continue our commitment to serve the scientific community in cardiovascular research, authors, and reviewers. We would like to thank all of you for your contributions. We wish to thank particularly the editorial board members and editors-at-large for their work in 2014. In 2015 we will welcome new editorial board members to further support and improve the review process. With Oxford University Press we are continuously working to improve the journal, and we are very proud of our new website with enhanced features for browsing and data access. We look forward to an exciting 2015!

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