

## EDITORIAL

### A Great Era Comes to an End: And a New One Begins!

The three-year leadership cycle of our Journal is about to start anew. It was introduced by the founders of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) to ensure a cycle of fresh ideas, innovations and strategies by successive editors in order to stay flexible and on top of evolving trends. However, to avoid abrupt changes, the founders also installed a programme of overlapping succession amongst the Editorial team. Essentially, every 'Editor-in-Chief-elect' serves a three-year period as Senior Editor, in order to prepare him/her for the awaiting challenge.

The incoming Editor in Chief and Senior Editor are immensely grateful for this tradition, as it has offered us the opportunity to work with the best. Indeed, the Journal has accomplished a series of impressive achievements over the past two editorial cycles, the most prominent being the 2014 impact factor which exceeded 3 for the first time in the Journal's history. The two previous Editors in Chief (Jean-Baptiste Ricco and Ross Naylor) oversaw a complete reform of the Journal's structure and strategy and introduced innovative ways for the executive editors to collaborate (monthly teleconferences, annual strategy meetings), as well as supporting authors and reviewers. However, it should also be recognised that none of these successes would have been possible without our hardworking editorial board and, especially, our Associate Editors.

The most visible example of the reform process was the Journal's facelift in 2014, which included new fonts with improved readability and the use of colour in titles and figures, supported by a decision to place papers within anatomic based sections (aortic, carotid, peripheral, venous, basic science, miscellaneous and education). In the table of contents, each paper is followed by a brief paragraph summarising the main findings of the study. Other initiatives introduced in the last three years include a commissioned Editorial, which addresses topical and/or controversial issues in vascular practice and which is free to access, and an 'Editor's choice' paper, which is also free to access. All other published papers become free to download after twelve months. In addition, important papers are increasingly accompanied by critical commentaries by experts in the field in order to put the findings into perspective.

The Journal has also introduced two new types of submission. The first is the 'coup d'oeil', where a maximum of two authors publish an interesting image relating to any

aspect of vascular practice, supported by a 100 word description. This neatly fills the 'white space' in the Journal and enables younger colleagues to start their publishing career. The second is the new 'Jugaar' section (Hindi for innovation), which enables authors to briefly describe a technical innovation pertaining to vascular practice. We have also established an on line Journal (EJVES Short Reports) which enables authors to publish longer case reports, short reports and technical videos. EJVES Short Reports is edited by Jean-Baptiste Ricco, a previous Editor in Chief of EJVES, and details about how to submit papers can be obtained from the website.

Another important (and long overdue) initiative is the Education section, which was introduced in 2014 and which embraces three themes. The first is the problem based clinical scenario. These take the format of 'evidence driven clinical scenarios', where there is a large enough evidence base to make evidence driven recommendations and an 'eminence based clinical scenario', where experts are asked to recommend a management strategy for clinical situations where little evidence exists. Secondly, we now provide advice on methodological pitfalls during data collection, interpretation and reporting (and strategies on how to avoid them) in our statistical 'Eduutorials'. Thirdly, the Journal now includes MCQs relating to papers in the current issue, as well as answers from the preceding month.

The Journal has also been keen to help authors get their work published. Firstly, we have commissioned guidance for writing up observational studies, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and randomised controlled trials. These are available on the Journals electronic submission portal in the 'author's section'. Second, and very important for a Journal which publishes in English, we now provide a free language editing service for all papers accepted from non-English speaking countries. Thirdly, EJVES has become increasingly active in providing workshops at the European Vascular Course and the ESVS annual meeting in order to help authors publish their work.

A very important initiative by the ESVS Council and EJVES was the decision to develop a more standardised approach to preparing guidelines. All ESVS guidelines are now standardised and overseen by a dedicated Guidelines Committee, in order to ensure quality, relevance and representation of regional needs. Over the last five years, a programme of eight sets of guidelines was established, each of which will be free to access in EJVES as soon as they are published. These guidelines encompass the topics of chronic venous disease (published in 2015), while the rest (descending thoracic aortic disease, vascular access,

mesenteric, carotid and vertebral, and abdominal aortic aneurysm) are at various stages of development. Elsevier has kindly offered to publish guidelines in other languages, once they have been translated by national societies. ESVS and EJVES have also entered into inter-societal collaborations to develop the 'Global Vascular Guidelines' on severe limb ischaemia with the US Society of Vascular Surgery and the World Federation of Vascular Surgery, as well as collaborating with the European Society of Cardiology in developing guidelines on all aspects of peripheral arterial disease. Both are expected to be published in EJVES in 2017.

In order to bring these initiatives closer to our readers, the Journal has expanded into social media. An ever growing twitter feed (@EJVES\_EJVES) has been established, which currently has 800 followers. The twitter feed highlights important papers, the monthly table of contents, coup d'oeils, as well as electronic links to the 'free to access' editorials and Editor's Choice papers. In addition, a monthly 'highlights' email goes out to over 10,000 colleagues and several national societies around the world. This email provides a summary of the main papers in each issue, as well as providing electronic links for downloading the table of contents, opening editorial and the Editor's Choice paper.

Of course, it remains to be seen whether all of these initiatives will lead to increasing success for the Journal. To date, we have seen a steadily increasing number of submissions to the Journal and it is our goal to attract the best submissions. In return, we aim to offer a fast, constructive and transparent peer review process with a rigorous set of quality standards. To facilitate this, we plan to improve

reviewer services by reintroducing our reviewer training workshops at the annual meeting.

The incoming Editor in Chief and Senior Editor look forward to taking on the baton for the next three years and to continue the successes of our predecessors. We say goodbye to Ross Naylor who completes a ten year term as Associate Editor, Senior Editor and Editor in Chief. We thank him for his guidance, enthusiasm and friendship over the last three years. His legacy is truly inspiring and we look forward to taking the Journal even further forward in the future.



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