

EDITOR'S PAGE



Growth, Gratitude, and Reflections

Jian'an Wang, MD, PhD, *Editor-in-Chief, JACC: Asia*



The year 2022 has been extraordinary. We have finally established a firm global foothold in the fight against COVID-19 and its emerging variants, reviving economic momentum and gradually bringing the world back to one that is more open, secure, and confident.

Fortunately, our research and efforts in cardiovascular medicine have not been hindered by the COVID-19 threat. Researchers continue to work on clinical decision support to improve the outcome of cardiovascular therapy in addition to their efforts to identify causes of COVID-19 and better understand the cardiovascular risks associated with COVID-19. The trade-off between surgical and interventional treatment, as well as the trade-off between oral medication and operations, have always been challenging when treating cardiovascular conditions, necessitating extensive and thorough clinical studies to come to evidence-based clinical guidelines. On the other hand, we are also striving to make early efforts to manage cardiovascular risk factors, stimulate cost-effective lifestyle modifications in current and potential cardiovascular patients, and make therapy more accessible and affordable for symptomatic patients.

The way the situation has changed is genuinely inspiring and motivating. And, my conviction is further strengthened by the reflection on all the 7 issues of *JACC: Asia* that were released in 2022. It is my belief that there is always a need, always an opportunity, and always a necessity to advance to carry out the responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief position at *JACC: Asia*. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the entire staff, *JACC: Asia* had a productive year in 2022, which saw its bimonthly publication launch in February, Scopus indexing after only 3 months in May, and approval for inclusion in PubMed Central in October.

JACC: Asia has been concentrating on cardiovascular diseases in Asian populations residing on the most populous continent on the earth, as well as individuals of Asian descent living around the world.

Each of the 7 issues addressed nearly every element of cardiovascular disease, included a wide range of scientific research studies, and presented valuable insights to enhance cardiovascular science. Such developments represented our passion and shared commitment in protecting everyone's cardiovascular health regardless of where they are from.

There are noticeable distinctions both within Asian populations and between them and non-Asian populations. Interethnic variations in the epidemiological profile of cardiovascular disease among different Asian countries highlights the current and future challenges faced by Asian countries.¹ The differences found in diverse dimensions with Western populations require more efforts to explore better and more tailored criteria and management strategies for Asian populations, such as hypertension management,² hypertrophic cardiomyopathy criteria,³ antithrombotic and antiplatelet strategies for coronary heart disease,^{4,5} and genetic profiles for chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension.⁶ Although we do not know the reasons for the differences with certainty, nor how to correctly understand and manage them, more research is required to address these problems, and we see it as our goal to elicit more journal submissions on the subject.

I really would like to highlight our dedication to educating the next generation of physician scientists in Asia in this Editor's Page as well. *JACC: Asia* offers a comprehensive curriculum of a 7-unit course in randomized clinical trials in collaboration with the George Institute for Global Health. We are pleased to see that the training has been completed by 15 trainees from Bangladesh, China, Singapore, and Thailand. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the lecturers and instructors for your contribution. Another piece of thrilling news that I could not wait to share is that up to 50 candidates may enroll in a randomized controlled study intermediate-level training course

this year. I cordially invite aspiring young physicians with an academic curiosity and creative attitude to join the program. I suffer no illusion that this is an easy undertaking; after all, as an old Chinese proverb says, a tree takes 10 years to grow, but it takes a hundred years to cultivate a person. Nevertheless, we will continue to educate the next generation in the hopes that the works of more Asian authors may eventually make a difference.

We remain motivated and confident to advance science and clinical practice as we enter a brand-new year. Diseases will always pose a threat to our peaceful life, but as guardians of people's health, we will always strike back. With the amazing help of the

cardiology community worldwide, we will keep making significant advancements. Thank you so much for working tirelessly to develop cardiovascular care, and it has been an honor and privilege for me to be a part of it. In 2023, let us continue to make our due contribution to ensure a better world and a better cardiovascular medical landscape.

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE: Dr Jian'an Wang, Editor-in-Chief, *JACC: Asia*, Heart Center, Second Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, 88 Jiefang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310009, China. E-mail: wja@zju.edu.cn.

REFERENCES

1. Zhao D. Epidemiological features of cardiovascular disease in Asia. *JACC: Asia*. 2021;1:1-13.
2. Kario K, Wang JG. Toward "zero" cardiovascular events in Asia: the HOPE Asia Network. *JACC: Asia*. 2021;1:121-124.
3. Le T-T, Huang B, Pua CJ, et al. Lowering the recommended maximal wall thickness threshold improves diagnostic sensitivity in Asians with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. *JACC: Asia*. 2021;1:218-226.
4. Kwon O, Park DW. Antithrombotic therapy after acute coronary syndromes or percutaneous coronary interventions in East Asian populations. *JACC: Asia*. 2022;2:1-18.
5. Choi Y, Kang D-Y, Lee J, et al. Ticagrelor versus clopidogrel in East Asian patients with acute coronary syndrome and diabetes mellitus. *JACC: Asia*. 2022;2:666-674.
6. Lian T-Y, Liu J-Z, Guo F, et al. Prevalence, genetic background, and clinical phenotype of congenital thrombophilia in chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension. *JACC: Asia*. 2022;2:247-255.