



Charting our course: Indexing milestones for JMCC PLUS

As we near the end of the year and holiday season, we are pleased to bring you some good news. As of September 2023, JMCC PLUS is indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Furthermore, we have met the publication thresholds for indexing in PubMed Central, Clarivate, and Scopus, and have begun the internal processes required to apply for indexing in those databases. Given that we have been active for just over a year, this is quite an achievement. This would not have been possible without the support of researchers who submit their work to us, our committed reviewers, Editorial Board members and the ISHR Council.

To elevate the visibility, availability, and the readership of JMCC PLUS, we aim to become indexed in all four bibliographic databases by 2025. Importantly, indexing in Clarivate will allow us to be included in the Journal Citation Reports and obtain an impact factor. Clarivate Analytics began publishing Journal Citation Reports in 1975, providing quantitative tools for ranking and comparing journals. Impact factor is a measure of the frequency an “average article” in a given journal has been cited in a particular year, or over a defined period of time. We must note that whilst impact factor can be an indicator of the journal's citation performance overall, it is certainly not the only measure of manuscript quality, and at JMCC PLUS we will not be solely driven by a desire to indiscriminately increase it.

1. The road to indexing of JMCC PLUS

So how did we get to this point? We have published 46 articles in 6 volumes thus far. Our *modus operandi* has been to promote scientific excellence, rigour, and discussion through commissioning of editorials for some of the manuscripts that we felt raised important topics of discussion [1–5]. We will continue to commission editorials in 2024, to both highlight scientific excellence and also to offer critiques of mechanistic or technical approaches.

We have taken the necessary steps to comply with International Committee of Medical Journal Editor (ICMJE) guidelines, have defined the scope of content and type of articles we publish, have established standards for content, ensured we have an internationally recognised, diverse editorial board with members from all the ISHR sections, and have developed a detailed guide for authors to guide their submissions.

2. Why does journal indexing matter?

The impact of scientific publications hinges on their discoverability and is almost entirely dependent on the process of journal indexing. To become indexed, a journal must adhere to key requirements and formally apply to each indexing database. Evaluation metrics include

peer review policies and timelines, quality of content, transparency, diversity, and expertise of the editorial board, copyright and metadata policies, and readability and archiving policies. Benefits of journal indexing include enhancing discoverability and accessibility of research, upholding ethics in publishing, maintaining high quality content, accelerating research pace, and promoting collaboration and global connections. As an author, publishing in an indexed journal increases the credibility and visibility of your work, as database searches are often the first activity that other researchers perform as part of their study.

We are proud of our accomplishments since the launch of our first issue in September 2022 and look forward to growing the JMCC PLUS readership and reputation in the field of cardiovascular research. If you have any suggestions for improvements, special issues, webinars, reviews or indeed any other new content that you would like to see implemented, please do get in touch with us. We wish you a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing your work in the pages of JMCC PLUS in 2024.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Rebekah L. Gundry: Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Davor Pavlovic:** Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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Rebekah L. Gundry^{a,*}, Davor Pavlovic^b

^a *CardiOmics Program, Center for Heart and Vascular Research, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198, USA*

^b *Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK*

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: rebekah.gundry@unmc.edu (R.L. Gundry).