

EDITOR'S PAGE

Introducing *JACC: Basic to Translational Science*



Why Now?

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The Editors are pleased to present the inaugural edition of *JACC: Basic to Translational Science*. Given the recent proliferation of journals, especially subspecialty cardiovascular journals, it is appropriate to question the need for a journal dedicated to bringing the fruits of fundamental scientific discoveries to patients. We find 2 compelling reasons to develop a journal that focuses on the critical interface between laboratory and clinical science. First, although a number of outstanding journals publish elegant scientific studies that seek to extend their findings in human biological samples, or that publish studies on novel devices or discoveries that can enter clinical trials, there has never been a scientific literary home for cardiovascular “translationalists” who wish to publish research that stands firmly at the crossroads of basic and clinical research. We do not seek to publish research that recapitulates the types of scientific studies that are published in existing high-impact scientific journals; rather, we will endeavor to publish those scientific studies that will lead to new therapies. More established journals often quickly dismiss translational studies for perceived lack of mechanistic depth and/or because they involve too few patients to engender confidence that phase III clinical trials will validate the findings. As Editors, we recognize the inherent fragility of new ideas, and believe firmly that new ideas cannot grow to become new therapies unless they see light of day. One cannot move to phase III clinical trials without passing through smaller phase I and II studies. These smaller clinical trials merit expeditious publication by a balanced and rigorous editorial process, and editors unafraid to publish these studies or innovative concepts, despite their exploratory nature.

The second, and perhaps more compelling, reason to launch a journal that focuses on cardiovascular translational science is the unprecedented opportunity today to develop novel cardiovascular drugs and devices. The explosion of “omic” technologies, bioinformatics, in silico structure modeling, high throughput screening, and novel clinical designs, and the willingness of Congress to advance new clinical therapies through the 21st Century Cures Act, have converged to offer an extremely opportune time for investigators to focus their efforts on developing new cardiovascular therapies. Translational science exemplifies “big science,” because it requires effective cooperation between basic and clinical investigators in academia and industry, patients and their families, patient advocacy groups, and governmental funding and regulatory agencies to evaluate and develop new therapies. No one person can possibly acquire all the requisite skills needed to conduct this type of research, and no one individual can move their ideas forward in the cardiovascular space unaided. *JACC: Basic to Translational Science* seeks to become both a forum and a learning center for cardiovascular investigators in academia and industry, patients and families impacted by heart disease, the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to help advance translational cardiovascular medicine. We aim to create an open access journal that will serve as a platform for accelerating the translation of new scientific discoveries into new therapies that improve clinical outcomes for patients afflicted with or at risk for cardiovascular disease. Although we recognize that attaining a high-impact factor has become a customary de facto goal for scientific journals, we will measure our long-term success by the number of new

therapies and/or translational avenues first explored in *JACC: Basic to Translational Science*.

The Editors realize that in an effort to cover the entire breadth of the translational cardiovascular research space, from new molecules and devices, to animal models, to early-phase transitional trials, we run the risk of creating a journal that becomes a scholarly jack-of-all-trades, yet master of none. As Editors, we remain committed to publishing the highest quality translational science, which by its nature means taking some risks on new ideas and early-phase discoveries. Accordingly, we recognize that we may occasionally overreach in our enthusiasm to advance new therapies. For this reason, we welcome comments and suggestions from

investigators in academia and industry, patients, societies, and all of the governmental regulatory agencies to assist us as we endeavor to guide the *Journal* toward fulfilling its promise of improving outcomes for patients afflicted with cardiovascular disease.

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