

## EDITORIAL

**EJVES Vascular Forum Moves Forward**

The *EJVES Vascular Forum* (*EJVESVF*) was reborn in 2020, with the ambition to take the second European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) peer reviewed, open access, online only journal to the next level.<sup>1</sup> In four years, the journal has developed from a hub of case reports to a platform that publishes full original research papers,<sup>2</sup> reviews,<sup>3</sup> short and case reports,<sup>4</sup> technical notes,<sup>5</sup> invited commentaries,<sup>6</sup> and abstracts from ESVS meetings, with additional special support of audiovisual material, images<sup>7</sup> and surgical videos.<sup>8</sup> Submissions have increased from 119 in 2018 to an all time high of 185 in 2021. Published papers have also increased from 41 in 2018 to 56 in 2022 (Fig. 1). The rejection rate remains stable at 60–65%, with an increase in the percentage of fast track initial editorial screening, thus shortening the decision times.

There have been other significant changes in the journal. The volumes remain open, and papers are published online and within the volume as soon as the proofs are ready, so median time from acceptance to first publication is as little as six days and 27 days to final publication, which adds to fast reader access to the information and author satisfaction. The number of yearly volumes has been reduced from four to two, as this speedy and continuous line of publication does not require compilation of volumes and issues. Another novelty is the special issues and article collections, where readers can find monographs on specific topics. Two collections of papers published in *EJVESVF* in 2020–2023 have been released so far, gathering the most updated information on vascular graft science (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/ejves-vascular-forum/special-issue/105HMCVLP79>) and vascular infection (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/ejves-vascular-forum/special-issue/10K41HCMOKT>).

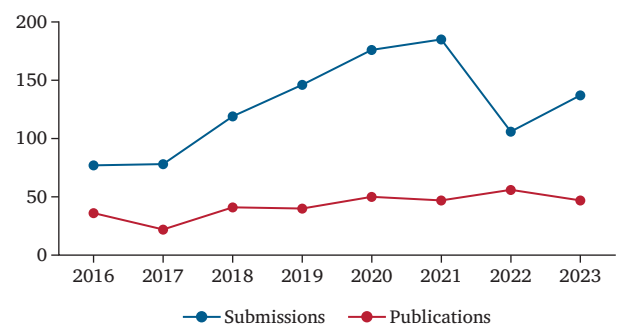
The team making *EJVESVF* possible is small and diverse.<sup>9</sup> It also allows the flexibility of inviting temporary Assistant Editors ([https://www.ejvesreports.com/article/S2666-688X\(23\)00089-8/pdf](https://www.ejvesreports.com/article/S2666-688X(23)00089-8/pdf)) for specific initiatives, like the live forum events held monthly in 2021–2023 on the journal's webpage. It is through strong team effort that all the regular journal work is completed, and new initiatives come to happen. We are also extremely grateful for the altruistic and often insufficiently recognised work of our reviewers, who help the authors make their papers shine.<sup>10</sup> In the period 2020–2023, 170 unique reviewers performed 1 254 reviews

for *EJVESVF*. We make a point of finding and training young new reviewers, to refresh and rejuvenate the pool of experts, always being mindful of potential and quality, but also diversity and equality. The Editorial Board is a way of recognising the best and most active reviewers, and it has also been updated during this editorial term.

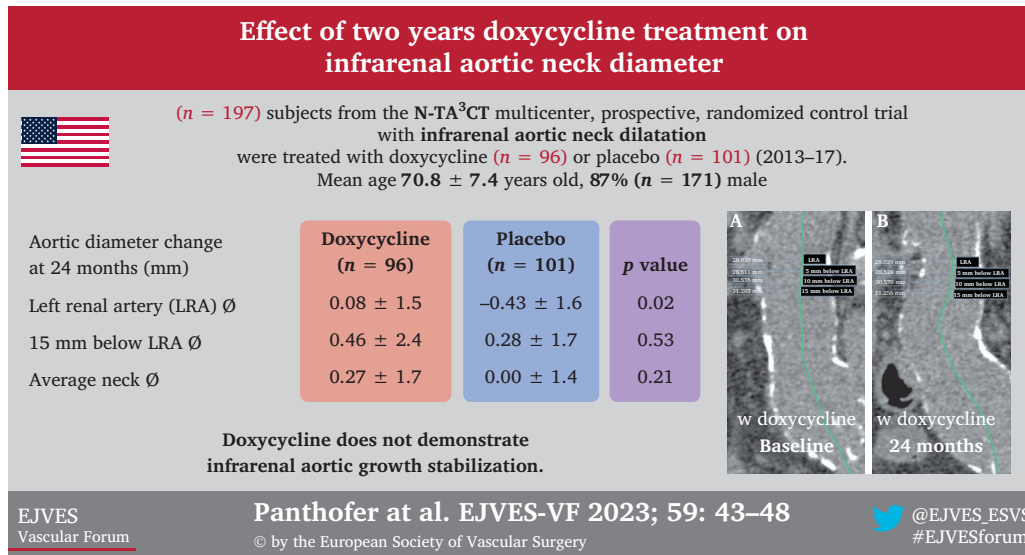
*EJVESVF* has proven to be an excellent platform for innovation. Our clear stake for audiovisual communication has enabled the development of the visual abstract program (Fig. 2), first in *EJVESVF* ([https://www.ejvesreports.com/content/visual\\_abstracts](https://www.ejvesreports.com/content/visual_abstracts)) and now also in the sister journal, the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*, and the ESVS podcasts,<sup>11</sup> which have already branched out into an independent committee within the ESVS (<https://esvs.org/esvs-podcasts-2/>). Since the beginning of the program in late 2019, the ESVS podcasts have released 125 tracks, accumulated over 33 000 downloads by about 3 000 different listeners and currently have more than 1 080 followers. The podcasts started within the *EJVESVF* and have become a signature feature of the ESVS. This has now moved to separate web based audio platforms.

Social media has been closely intertwined with the *EJVESVF* activities.<sup>12</sup> This was from the inception of social media as an important journal adjunct,<sup>13</sup> helping to boost the online presence of the *EJVESVF*,<sup>14</sup> in addition to linking podcasts via platforms such as SoundCloud, which could be directly accessed via Twitter (now X). This will have additional exposure via LinkedIn from now on.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the last four years has been the achievement of the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) in June 2023.<sup>9</sup> The journal's CiteScore has continuously been increasing since 2016, reaching 1.1 in 2021. The journal was then included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index in



**Figure 1.** Number of submissions and published papers per year in *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Short Reports* (2016–2019) and *EJVES Vascular Forum* (2020–2023).



**Figure 2.** Visual abstract from an original research paper<sup>15</sup> published in *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Vascular Forum*.

2022, and finally obtained its first JIF, 0.6, in 2023. This is an important asset for authors who seek academic recognition and a landmark for the journal.

A new phase of *EJVESVF* begins. Editor in chief Melina Vega de Ceniga, who marshalled the significant evolution of the journal into its current form, handed over the management to Arindam Chaudhuri in January 2024. Arindam steps in with fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and the journal moves forward to the next stage. New initiatives in the pipeline include the addition of a flipbook for each volume, the development of a video program, and initiatives to improve the visibility of the journal to readers and authors. The position comes with inherent challenges on managing a multimedia platform and balancing high scientific standards and cutting edge innovation. Arindam and his team will strive to give authors and readers the best educational experience there is to offer. Moving forward, the future is bright.

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