

State of the Journal 2025



Jeanne E. Poole, MD, FHRS

Heart Rhythm O² (*HRO2*) joined the portfolio of Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) journals as a “gold” open access and online-only journal, launching December 2019 and publishing its first issue on April 27, 2020. December 2024 is a remarkable milestone for *HRO2* as we successfully complete this first 5 years of publication! The success of this journal is a reflection of the hard work of the HRS journal staff, the *HRO2* Associate/Section Editors, the Editorial Board, and reviewers. We deeply appreciate our readership, listeners of the *HRO2* summary podcasts, and viewers of our author interviews on HRStv.

Our submission rates have more than doubled, and we are on a positive trajectory to reach over 400 submissions in 2025. The majority of *HRO2* submissions are direct to the journal and 38% are transfers offered by Dr Sami Viskin from *Heart Rhythm*. Transferred papers include those that underwent full review at *Heart Rhythm* as well as those offered transfer pre-review. For the papers transferred post-review, *HRO2* editors will fast track the final decision when possible, if the response to the *Heart Rhythm* reviewers is acceptable. We appreciate the authors who have accepted the offers of transfer.

HRO2 continues to broadly reflect global authorship: 53% of articles published in 2024 came from locations outside the United States. The top 5 countries publishing outside the United States include Japan, Canada, Israel, China, and the United Kingdom. In 2024, *HRO2* published 49% original research articles and 7% Reviews or Perspectives articles. We were also pleased to see our second impact factor rise to 2.5, reflecting articles published in 2021–2022 and cited in 2023.

The most cited original research article from 2024 was “Bipolar ablation involving coronary venous system for refractory left ventricular summit arrhythmias” by Enriquez et al.¹ and the most downloaded was “Delineating postinfarct ventricular tachycardia substrate with dynamic voltage mapping in areas of omnipolar vector disarray” by Grade Santos et al.² The most downloaded review topic was “Considerations regarding safety with pulsed field ablation for atrial fibrillation” by Sugrue et al.³ We were also pleased to publish an HRS Committee Document, the “2024 HRS perspective on advancing workflows for CIED remote monitoring,” by Slotwiner et al.⁴

We continue to expand our special sections, and in 2024 we have published 7 Fellows Corner articles, 1 Allied Health

Professionals article, 6 Design Papers, and 13 articles in our Global Voices section. We also featured 4 author interviews on HRStv.

Regarding Global Voices, we are very excited to see this section continue to grow. Global Voices broadly publishes articles that include original research, such as the article by Opara et al, “Outcomes and care quality metrics for people living with rheumatic heart disease and atrial fibrillation in Uganda”⁵; a Focus series on the global burden of atrial fibrillation^{6–9}; case series; reviews; and articles reflecting the experience of our colleagues practicing arrhythmia care in health resource-constrained regional areas. We have strengthened our relationships with global arrhythmia societies to encourage publication in *HRO2*. In December 2024, we were pleased to publish 7 abstracts presented at the African Heart Rhythm Association’s Cardiorhythm-Virtual 2024 meeting, conducted on November 1, 2024.¹⁰ We are strongly committed to representing science from diverse geographical areas.

Moving into the next 5 years, *HRO2* will reflect the mainstreaming of innovation and digital medicine into electrophysiology and arrhythmia science. We will be adding to our Editorial Board members with specific expertise in these content areas. We are excited to announce that Dr Hamid Ghanbari will serve as Deputy Editor and Dr Suneet Mittal will join our outstanding group of Associate Editors. These very experienced editors will focus on and help to expand these important content areas.

I want to acknowledge the *HRO2* journal staff—Brianna Gallagher, Jeremy Rosenberg, Kristin Murray, and Lori Monteleone. Additionally, I cannot thank enough the Associate Editors and Section Editors for their commitment, as well as the members of our diverse Editorial Board.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

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Editor-in-Chief, *Heart Rhythm O²*

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