

EDITOR'S PAGE



Lessons From the Youth

Simplicity and Insightfulness

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"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication."

—Leonardo da Vinci (1)

This issue marks my assumption of the role of Editor-in-Chief of *JACC*, the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. I recognize the legacy and responsibility that this position holds, particularly because the *Journal* was founded by one of my mentors and a true luminary at my institution, Dr. Simon Dack. As editor-in-chief from 1958 (originally *The American Journal of Cardiology*) until 1983, he truly set the standard for his successors: Dr. William Parmley from 1992 to 2002, and Dr. Anthony DeMaria from 2002 to 2014. Under their leadership, both Editors-in-Chief progressively positioned *JACC* as a clinical science flagship of the cardiovascular community. It is with this recognition that I humbly move forward in my new role, with a sense of potential contribution to translational cardiovascular science, health, and education.

On a daily basis, when I speak with the young members of the medical community, I learn how they consume medical literature—which has drastically changed from my days as a fellow. These conversations have shaped many of the changes that you will see unfold in the pages of the new *JACC*. While the science has to maintain the highest quality to help the medical community, the educational manner by which we deliver that material has changed. The two educational principles that I have learned from the youth are simplicity and insightfulness. Indeed, as long as I am Editor-in-Chief, I will strive, along with my fellow deputy and associate editors and section editors, to deliver highly impactful, highly meaningful, and *deep* content within a context of simplicity:

1. Every original science paper, state-of-the-art review, or review topic will be accompanied by a

central illustration. This illustration will summarize the entire paper or, at least, a major section of that paper; the purpose of this is for the readers to understand the crux of the paper's message in a single image. Confronted with a large amount of information at a rapidly evolving pace, the cardiovascular generalist, specialist, or investigator seeks a simple door of entry into the subject; what better way to provide this "door" than the concluding final lines of the abstract with an illustration that summarizes its content. It will be up to the reader to decide whether this visual first encounter will persuade him or her to thoroughly read the paper for a more complete understanding.

2. Every original science paper will end with a perspective summary outlining the core clinical competencies and translational outlook that were produced as a result of the research. The core clinical competencies highlight the implications of the study for current practice. The translational outlook places the work in a prospective context, emphasizing directions for additional research.

3. Two present and future sections will appear every week. One section will be entitled "State-of-the-Art Review," which will be approached as a disease entity: from basic mechanisms to clinical manifestations and interventional approaches and to global health implications. These papers will focus on a contemporary, controversial, or translational topic with 4 to 5 major sections written by 4 to 5 authors. The other standard will be entitled "Review Topic of the Week," which will review a contemporary topic of basic, translational, or clinical science. We also have invited various American College of Cardiology (ACC) committees and councils to periodically formulate position statements in either format. The College has wonderful leaders and advocates working on a number of initiatives to improve cardiovascular

practice—from within the hospital wards to Capitol Hill. We want to give them a voice within the *Journal* to enlighten and engage the cardiology community about their actions.

4. Inclusivity will be a driving force behind many of the *Journal's* new weekly standards, including 3 dedicated pages written by 3 of the critical communities shaping the future of our cardiovascular specialty. First, recognizing that it is not just my voice that helps to inform the pages of the *Journal*, our national and international deputy editors and associate editors also will contribute to the weekly Editor's Page, expressing their unique positions and viewpoints on a wide variety of topics on which they are experts. We will feature a bi-weekly statement written by various ACC leaders, including the ACC president and CEO, through the Leadership Page. Also, an International Page will appear on a monthly basis, so that leaders from outside of the U.S. borders can inform us about the intricacies of delivering cardiovascular care with unique guidelines and resources. Finally, we will have a weekly Fellows-in-Training & Early Career Page, where we will give young cardiovascular specialists (within 10 years of medical school) a prominent forum to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with being at an early stage of one's career. I suspect we have much to learn from the distinctive insights of these thoughtful, young cardiovascular specialists.

5. Each issue will be accompanied by an audio recording, available as a downloadable podcast, to describe the thrust of the overall issue, in addition to providing my perspective on each paper. I want our readers to be able to consume the science in a manner that is comfortable to them. In addition, all new features of the *Journal*, as well as my audio reviews, will be readily available at www.onlinejacc.org.

Our family of *JACC* journals shares in this new philosophy, as well as in the new look and feel of the journals. The editors of our sister journals, *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging*, *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions*, and *JACC: Heart Failure*, join in our weekly editorial meetings to ensure that we are taking a similar approach, as it remains tremendously important that we promote the quality of all 4 journals equally.

As opposed to consistently adding new standards going forward, we will remain insightful but at the same time simple with the presentation and execution of the *Journal's* mission, which we hope is reflected in the new design as well. I look forward to this journey, although I recognize the daunting responsibility that accompanies being the Editor-in-Chief of this prestigious journal.

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REFERENCE

1. BrainyQuote. Leonardo da Vinci quotes. Available at: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/l/leonardo_da_vinci.html. Accessed May 22, 2014.