



Editorial

Editor in Chief's report for *Atherosclerosis* for 2013

2013 has been another busy year for the *Atherosclerosis* Editorial team. We have now moved seamlessly to online article based publishing only and there appears to have been no problems as a result of this – in fact our speed of handling papers from acceptance to appearing online in final form has reduced to less than four weeks! We continue to receive over 100 submissions a month and expect to publish more than 440 articles this year. While the largest proportion are articles in the area of clinical research into the Epidemiology and Biomarkers of CVD (32%), we also publish in the clinical areas of Imaging, Vascular Health and Intervention (17%) and Genetics (5%), while in the area of basic research we publish in the fields of Lipid metabolism (7%) and Vascular Biology (9%), and overall 29% of articles were Reviews. In order to continue to improve the quality of the Journal (and the Impact Factor) we have increased our rejection rate, with 81% of submitted Clinical investigations and 85% of Basic Research investigations being rejected. While this does mean that a number of perfectly solid papers are being rejected, the mission of the Editorial team is to accept only the very best (and citable) papers and we believe we are continuing to achieve this goal. The largest number of papers accepted were again from the US (21% papers), Japan (10.4%), Italy (8%) and the Netherlands (7%) but over the last year we have accepted papers from 27 different countries worldwide, demonstrating the truly international nature of the journal and its readership.

Papers published in *Atherosclerosis* continue to be well cited, and as shown in Table 1, of those published since 2009, 14 papers have been cited more than 40 times, with our top paper receiving more than 100 citations. Interestingly, of our top 20 cited papers half are Review articles. While there has been increasing discussion and unease at the over emphasis put on Impact Factor metrics by ranking agencies and University promotion committees, we are fully aware that this metric is viewed as being of importance by the Research community in deciding where to submit their manuscripts. I am pleased to tell you that the 2012 Impact Factor for *Atherosclerosis* remained steady at 3.71 (with previous year being 3.79). In the Impact factor calculation for 2011, 1166 papers were included with an average number of citations of 4.06 and 13% uncited. In the 2012 calculation we had only 1119 papers included, with an average of 4.00 cites each and only 11% uncited. As you can see from Table 2, part of our problem is the larger than average number of papers which we published in 2010 in order to deal with a historic backlog. I think we can be quietly confident that when this figure drops out of the equation for the 2013 release of the Impact Factor, together with the increasing quality of the papers being published in *Atherosclerosis*, it is very likely that we once again the impact factor will rise.

The good news is we have maintained our ranking as 15th out of 140 of journals in the field, and it is worth noting that we publish considerably more papers than most of the journals which rank above us. I think the take-home message is we must continue to identify and publish only the very best papers that are submitted to us, we must ensure that the Associate Editors are able to select appropriate reviewers and make editorial decisions in a timely manner, and that we should work on identifying and publishing good Review Articles. To this end we have commissioned a series of expert reviews on the biology, genetics, metabolic impact and clinical impact of PCSK9, which will appear in Spring 2014.

The online usage of *Atherosclerosis* continues to increase year on year, and as shown in Table 3, in the last quarter, 20 papers (16 of which are reviews) have been downloaded more than 400 times each, with our top downloaded article being downloaded 1325 times. On another front, we agreed with Elsevier that from May 1st 2013 the strict formatting for references in submitted articles was removed, thus allowing authors to focus instead on getting accurate content data. This will reduce the time that authors need to spend formatting the reference style in their submitted manuscripts, while also maximizing the discoverability of articles in the reference lists of published papers. This should help to improve the author experience, and hopefully it will be another feature to make *Atherosclerosis* more attractive to authors.

We are still interested in publishing Supplements on different topics, and if any of the Journal readers is running a meeting where the publication of the proceedings might be of interest, they should please contact our Supplements' Editor Professor Alberico Catapano alberico.catapano@unimi.it. Over the last year we have published 36 Commentaries summarizing papers of general interest published in *Atherosclerosis*, as well as four Commentaries from Experts in the EAS on various topics. From the feedback that we have received we believe these commentaries are much appreciated by our readers, and we will continue to commission these and to tell EAS members about the published articles through the monthly Newsletter.

We continue to rely heavily on our database of reviewers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work (see the Journal webpage for the names of those reviewing the most in 2013). We also thank six of the longer standing members of the Editorial Board who will be rotating off, Bruce Griffin (UK), Wendy Jessup (Australia), Iso Hiroyasu (Japan), Barry Hudson (USA), Vedat Sansoy (Turkey) and Tai E Shyong (Japan) all of whom have been on the board for many years. We thank them all for their contributions to the journal. I am pleased to say that most of our hardworking Associate Editors have agreed to continue in

Table 1
The twenty top cited papers in Atherosclerosis since 2009.

Cited	Details	Article type
104	Meta-analysis of the effect of nicotinic acid alone or in combination on cardiovascular events and atherosclerosis Bruckert, E., Labreuche, J., Amarenco, P. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 210 (2), pp. 353–361	Review
78	ESC/EAS Guidelines for the management of dyslipidaemias. The Task Force for the management of dyslipidaemias of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) Catapano, A.L., Reiner, T., De Backer, G., Graham, I., Taskinen, M.-R., Wiklund, O., Agewall, S., (...), Wood, D. 2011 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 217 (1), pp. 3–46	Review
62	Autologous stem cell therapy for peripheral arterial disease. Meta-analysis and systematic review of the literature Fadini, G.P., Agostini, C., Avogaro, A. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 209 (1), pp. 10–17	Review
53	Endothelial enriched microRNAs regulate angiotensin II-induced endothelial inflammation and migration Zhu, N., Zhang, D., Chen, S., Liu, X., Lin, L., Huang, X., Guo, Z., (...), Qin, Y. 2011 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 215 (2), pp. 286–293	Original Research
53	Clear detection of ADIPOQ locus as the major gene for plasma adiponectin: Results of genome-wide association analyses including 4659 European individuals Heid, I.M., Henneman, P., Hicks, A., Coassin, S., Winkler, T., Aulchenko, Y.S., Fuchsberger, C., (...), van Duijn, C.M. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 208 (2), pp. 412–420	Review
51	ABC transporters, atherosclerosis and inflammation Fitzgerald, M.L., Mujawar, Z., Tamehiro, N. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 211 (2), pp. 361–370	Review
50	Epicardial adipose tissue and coronary artery plaque characteristics Alexopoulos, N., McLean, D.S., Janik, M., Arepalli, C.D., Stillman, A.E., Raggi, P. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 210 (1), pp. 150–154	Original Research
48	Evaluation of cholesterol lowering treatment of patients with familial hypercholesterolemia: a large cross-sectional study in The Netherlands Pijlman, A.H., Huijgen, R., Verhagen, S.N., Imholz, B.P.M., Liem, A.H., Kastelein, J.J.P., Abbink, E.J., (...), Visseren, F.L.J. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 209 (1), pp. 189–194	Original Research
47	The incremental role of obstructive sleep apnoea on markers of atherosclerosis in patients with metabolic syndrome Drager, L.F., Bortolotto, L.A., Maki-Nunes, C., Trombetta, I.C., Alves, M.J.N.N., Fraga, R.F., Negrão, C.E., (...), Lorenzi-Filho, G. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 208 (2), pp. 490–495	Original Research
47	Metabolism and atherogenic disease association of lysophosphatidylcholine Schmitz, G., Ruebsaamen, K. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 208 (1), pp. 10–18	Review
46	Carotid plaque, compared with carotid intima-media thickness, more accurately predicts coronary artery disease events: A meta-analysis Inaba, Y., Chen, J.A., Bergmann, S.R. 2012 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 220 (1), pp. 128–133	Original Research
44	Genetic variation at chromosome 1p13.3 affects sortilin mRNA expression, cellular LDL-uptake and serum LDL levels which translates to the risk of coronary artery disease Linsel-Nitschke, P., Heeren, J., Aherrahrou, Z., Bruse, P., Gieger, C., Illig, T., Prokisch, H., (...), Erdmann, J. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 208 (1), pp. 183–189	Original Research
42	Exenatide suppresses postprandial elevations in lipids and lipoproteins in individuals with impaired glucose tolerance and recent onset type 2 diabetes mellitus Schwartz, E.A., Koska, J., Mullin, M.P., Syoufi, I., Schwenke, D.C., Reaven, P.D. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 212 (1), pp. 217–222	Original Research
41	Characterization of culprit lesions in acute coronary syndromes using coronary dual-source CT angiography Pflederer, T., Marwan, M., Schepis, T., Ropers, D., Seltmann, M., Muschiol, G., Daniel, W.G., Achenbach, S. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 211 (2), pp. 437–444	Original Research
40	One-year treatment with exenatide vs. Insulin Glargine: Effects on postprandial glycemia, lipid profiles, and oxidative stress Bunck, M.C., Cornier, A., Eliasson, B., Heine, R.J., Shaginian, R.M., Wu, Y., Yan, P., (...), Taskinen, M.-R. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 212 (1), pp. 223–229	Original Research
40	Role of polymorphonuclear neutrophils in atherosclerosis: Current state and future perspectives Baetta, R., Corsini, A. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 210 (1), pp. 1–13	Review
40	Efficacy criteria and cholesterol targets for LDL apheresis Thompson, G.R., Barbir, M., Davies, D., Dobral, P., Gesinde, M., Livingston, M., Mandry, P., (...), Watkins, S. 2010 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 208 (2), pp. 317–321	Review
39	Differential metabolic effects of distinct statins Koh, K.K., Sakuma, I., Quon, M.J. 2011 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 215 (1), pp. 1–8	Review
38	MiR-21, miR-210, miR-34a, and miR-146a/b are up-regulated in human atherosclerotic plaques in the Tampere Vascular Study Raitoharju, E., Lyytikäinen, L.-P., Levula, M., Oksala, N., Mennander, A., Tarkka, M., Klopp, N., (...), Lehtimäki, T. 2011 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 219 (1), pp. 211–217	Original Research
38	The new joint EAS/ESC guidelines for the management of dyslipidaemias Catapano, A.L., Chapman, J., Wiklund, O., Taskinen, M.-R. 2011 <i>Atherosclerosis</i> 217 (1), pp. 1	Review

their role for the next twelve months, and this level of continuity is extremely useful for the journal. Over the year our Epidemiology Editor Dr Malcolm Law stepped down and has been replaced by Prof Jane Armitage (UK), and Prof Peter Weinberg our Editor with expertise in arterial stress has stepped down and has been

replaced by Abdul Barakat (France) and Yiannis Chatzizisis (USA). Over the year we held two Editorial Board meetings by teleconference, having them in the early morning and late evening UK time to allow colleagues in different time zones to call in and although this does not have the intimacy of our face-to-face meeting the feedback we have received by Board members is that these are useful and we shall continue these in 2014.

During the EAS Congress in Lyon last June we held a reviewer workshop. This training and discussion meeting was well received by those who attended and we plan make this a regular event at future EAS congresses, so that we can continue to instruct and assist our team of dedicated peer reviewers.

Finally I would like to thank our Publishing Editor Tamara Lucas who has worked with us on Atherosclerosis for a number of years, she is now moving to The Lancet and we wish her every success. I

Table 2
Showing the number of articles published and cited and the calculated impact factor over the last 4 years.

Year	Articles	Total cites	Impact factor
2009	540	15,753	4.522
2010	592	16,837	4.086
2011	513	17,550	3.794
2012	474	18,956	3.706

Table 3
The most downloaded papers during Q2 of 2013.

Downloads	Article title	Article type	Publication date
1325	Acute effects of cigarette smoking on insulin resistance and arterial stiffness in young adults (Seet, R.C.S.; Loke, W.M.; Khoo, C.M.; Chew, S.E.; Chong, W.L.; Quek, A.M.L.; Lim, E.C.H.; Halliwell, B.)	Original Research	Sep-2012
1126	Interactions between inflammation and lipid metabolism: Relevance for efficacy of anti-inflammatory drugs in the treatment of atherosclerosis (van Diepen, J.A.; Berbee, J.F.P.; Havekes, L.M.; Rensen, P.C.N.)	Review	Jun-2013
1067	The use of THP-1 cells as a model for mimicking the function and regulation of monocytes and macrophages in the vasculature (Qin, Z.)	Review	Mar-2012
844	Coronary and carotid atherosclerosis: Similarities and differences (Jashari, F.; Ibrahim, P.; Nicoll, R.; Bajraktari, G.; Wester, P.; Henein, M.Y.)	Review	Apr-2013
807	Egg yolk consumption and carotid plaque (Spence, J.D.; Jenkins, D.J.A.; Davignon, J.)	Original Research	Oct-2012
733	European Guidelines on cardiovascular disease prevention in clinical practice (version 2012) (Perk, J.; De Backer, G.; Gohlke, H.; Graham, I.; Reiner, Z.; Verschuren, W.M.M.; Albus, C.; Benlian, P.; Boysen, G.; Cifkova, R.; Deaton, C.; Ebrahim, S.; Fisher, M.; Germano, G.; Hobbs, R.; Hoes, A.; Karadeniz, S.; Mezzani, A.; Prescott, E.; Ryden, L.; S)	Review	Jul-2012
731	Distribution of macrophage polarization markers in human atherosclerosis (Stoger, J.L.; Gijbels, M.J.J.; van der Velden, S.; Manca, M.; van der Loos, C.M.; Biessen, E.A.L.; Daemen, M.J.A.P.; Lutgens, E.; de Winther, M.P.J.)	Original Research	Dec-2012
714	Inflammation, obesity, stress and coronary heart disease: is interleukin-6 the link? (Yudkin, J.S.; Kumari, M.; Humphries, S.E.; Mohamed-Ali, V.)	Review	Feb-1999
695	An emerging role of dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP4) beyond glucose control: Potential implications in cardiovascular disease (Zhong, J.; Rao, X.; Rajagopalan, S.)	Review	Feb-2013
586	PCSK9 plays a significant role in cholesterol homeostasis and lipid transport in intestinal epithelial cells (Levy, E.; Ouadda, A.B.D.; Spahis, S.; Sane, A.T.; Garofalo, C.; Grenier, E.; Emonnot, L.; Yara, S.; Couture, P.; Beaulieu, J.F.; Menard, D.; Seidah, N.G.; Elchebly, M.)	Original Research	Apr-2013
582	Cigarette smoking: An undertreated risk factor for cardiovascular disease (Erhardt, L.)	Review	Jul-2009
545	MicroRNAs and lipoproteins: A connection beyond atherosclerosis? (Norata, G.D.; Sala, F.; Catapano, A.L.; Fernandez-Hernando, C.)	Review	Apr-2013
530	MicroRNA-33 in atherosclerosis etiology and pathophysiology (Chen, W.J.; Zhang, M.; Zhao, G.J.; Fu, Y.; Zhang, D.W.; Zhu, H.B.; Tang, C.K.)	Review	Apr-2013
529	Carotid intima-media thickness for cardiovascular risk assessment: Systematic review and meta-analysis (van den Oord, S.C.H.; Sijbrands, E.J.G.; ten Kate, G.L.; van Klaveren, D.; van Domburg, R.T.; van der Steen, A.F.W.; Schinkel, A.F.L.)	Review	May-2013
521	Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia: Current perspectives on diagnosis and treatment (Raal, F.J.; Santos, R.D.)	Review	Aug-2012
490	Adipokines as mediators of endothelial function and atherosclerosis (Ntaios, G.; Gatselis, N.K.; Makaritsis, K.; Dalekos, G.N.)	Review	Apr-2013
476	The role of vitamin D in cardiovascular disease: From present evidence to future perspectives (Brandenburg, V.M.; Vervloet, M.G.; Marx, N.)	Review	Dec-2012
472	Adhesion molecules and atherosclerosis (Blankenberg, S.; Barbaux, S.; Tiret, L.)	Review	Oct-2003
458	Omega-3 fatty acids and coronary heart disease risk: Clinical and mechanistic perspectives (Harris, W.S.; Miller, M.; Tighe, A.P.; Davidson, M.H.; Schaefer, E.J.)	Review	Mar-2008
450	The potential role of homocysteine mediated DNA methylation and associated epigenetic changes in abdominal aortic aneurysm formation (Krishna, S.M.; Dear, A.; Craig, J.M.; Norman, P.E.; Gollidge, J.)	Review	Jun-2013

would also like to thank our Journal Manager Jo Creek also at Elsevier and my Editorial Assistant, Dr Sarah Leigh for all the hard work they have put in to ensure that the journal continues to be a great success.

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