

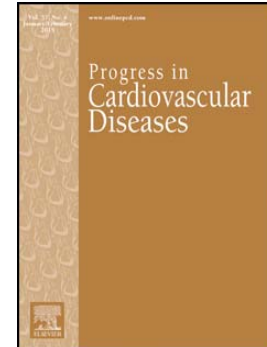
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Analyzing 2015 Impact Factors – Special Editor’s Commentary

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*Editorial*

**Analyzing 2015 Impact Factors – Special Editor's Commentary**

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In June, 2016, the new 2015 Journal Impact Factors (IF) were released, which is based on papers published in 2013 and 2014 and citations during 2015. As noted in Table 1, the IF for Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases (PCVD) increased from the mid 2's the prior two years to now 4.635, increasing the PCVD rankings from 55th of 123 cardiovascular (CV) Journals in 2014 to now 21st of 124 CV Journals. This is the first time since 2011 that PCVD has been back in the Top 25 list of CV Journals (Table 2). If I were a Division 1 College Football Coach, getting into the Top 25 would usually mean a major increase in salary and being recruited to take over other major college programs, who would love to also make the Top 25 list. As Editor in Chief (EIC) of a CV Journal, however, without the "raise" or recruitments, I can still take pride that PCVD is on solid ground.

Many EICs focus heavily, maybe too much so, on the IF as this is the typical gauge to evaluate the status of one's Journal. However, it should be kept in mind that changing the IF is a very slow process, and papers that are being published currently in 2016 will not even count for the IF until they are cited in either 2017 or 2018, and these IF's come out in mid year 2018 and 2019, respectively. Also, the IF is only one parameter to judge a Journal's success. Obviously, readership is also an extremely important parameter. If a Journal focused too much on having very research oriented papers that may be cited by authors publishing on a particular topic, it is quite possible that the IF may increase, but the Journal may become less attractive to many non-researchers/clinicians who like to read the clinical content to help them in their clinical practices. Several years ago, the EIC of the Mayo Clinic Proceedings (MCP), Dr. William "Bill" Lanier, wrote that it is often difficult to increase both the IF and Readership of a journal at the same time, but at MCP, where I have also served with Dr. Lanier as Associate Editor and CV Section

Editor for many years, we have done both.<sup>1</sup> Certainly, this is a goal for me as EIC of PCVD as well, although one that is not easily accomplished. There are other parameters used to judge a Journal's success, including article downloads, visits to the Website, media coverage, Social Media hits, etc, as well as the Eigenfactor and Article Influence Scores. Fortunately, the Publisher of PCVD, Elsevier, who publishes many leading Journals, including the MCP and many in CV diseases (all the JACC Journals, for example), has not placed any emphasis on my improving the IF, so I must admit that this is all self-imposed in my case.

Also, for a journal like PCVD, which is currently published only six times yearly and typically has 10-12 major papers in each issue (or approximately 65-70 each year), this means that the IF is computed using only 130-140 papers during a 2-year cycle, meaning that just a few papers that are highly cited can tremendously effect the IF. In this regard, my very first issue in 2014 on Obesity and the Obesity Paradox,<sup>2</sup> 10 of the all-time top 25 cited articles in PCVD's history came from this one issue.<sup>3-12</sup> Although this suggests that the next IF will also be quite high, only one of the top 25 papers came from 2015,<sup>13</sup> suggesting that the 2017 IF may not be nearly as high as the 2015 and 2016 ones. However, I still have hope for several other papers in 2015 and certainly 2016, especially in the January 2015 Physical Activity Issue, Guest Edited by Drs. Ross Arena and JP Després.<sup>14-19</sup> Four papers from my 2011 Exercise Issue, which I Guest Edited for then EIC, Dr. Henry Greenberg, are also on this Top 25 list,<sup>20-23</sup> which is one of the reasons that we will do another Exercise Issue ( Exercise Training in Health and Disease) in July/August 2017, which I will Guest Edit along with Dr. Ulrik Wisloff from Norway. Many of my colleagues and I also feel that physical inactivity is one of the greatest threats to health in the 21st Century, and increasing awareness on this topic is also extremely important and also of high

interest to Specialists in CV Diseases , as well as to many clinicians and scientists outside of the usual PCVD readership.

Regardless of the IF, however, with the support of my excellent team at Elsevier ( especially Ms Joan Anuels and Ms Rhosan Sotomayor), my Associate Editors, Drs. Christopher White and Hector Ventura, my lead assistant, Lisa Bienvenu, B.S., R.D.C.S., and my excellent Guest Editors, Editorial Board and Authors, I believe that the PCVD readership will continue to see an excellent and improving overall product over many years.

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**Table 1. Progress in Cardiovascular Disease Journal Rankings.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Impact Factor</b>	<b>Rank of CV Journals</b>
2015	4.635	21/124
2014	2.418	55/123
2013	2.443	57/125
2012	4.0	28/122
2011	4.931	18/117

CV = Cardiovascular



**Table 2. Top 25 Cardiovascular Journals Impact Factor Ratings.**

<b>JOURNAL</b>		<b>IMPACT FACTOR</b>
1.	Journal of the American College of Cardiology	17.759
2.	Circulation	17.047
3.	European Heart Journal	15.064
4.	Circulation Research	11.551
5.	Nature Reviews Cardiology	10.533
6.	JACC-Cardiovascular Imaging	7.815
7.	JACC-Cardiovascular Interventions	7.63
8.	Journal of Heart And Lung Transplantation	7.509
9.	JACC-Heart Failure	7.218
10.	Circulation-Heart Failure	6.833
11.	Basic Research in Cardiology	6.008
12.	Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance	5.752
13.	Circulation-Cardiovascular Imaging	5.744
14.	Circulation-Cardiovascular Interventions	5.706
15.	Heart	5.693
16.	Cardiovascular Research	5.465
17.	European Journal of Heart Failure	5.135
18.	Journal of the American Heart Association	5.117
19.	Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology	4.874
20.	International Journal of Cardiology	4.638

<b>21.</b>	<b>Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases</b>	<b>4.635</b>
22.	Revista Espanola De Cardiologia	4.596
23.	Cardiovascular Diabetology	4.534
24.	Circulation-Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology	4.428
25.	Heart Rhythm	4.391

