Dear Colleague,

Back in 2005, the Journal of Arrhythmia, the official journal of the Japanese Heart Rhythm Society (JHRS), became a peer review journal written in English because all the members really wanted JHRS to become an international society in the arrhythmia/cardiac electrophysiology field.

Since then, more than 230 important articles have been submitted to the journal. These changes were made by the outstanding efforts of the former Editorial Team led by two former Editors-in-Chief, Professor Takao Katoh and Professor Youichi Kobayashi.

In 2011, 6 years later, the members of the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS) decided to join with us so that the Journal of Arrhythmia is now the official journal for both societies, JHRS and APHRS. Currently all the editorial committee members of the Journal of Arrhythmia, both the Japanese side and Asia-Pacific side, are working very hard on becoming one of the major scientific journals in the world covering both clinical and research contents in arrhythmia and electrophysiology field.

Next year, the editorial teams of the JHRS and the APHRS wish to work together very hard so that the Journal of Arrhythmia becomes more international. The new editorial team will make every effort to raise the scientific level of the Journal of Arrhythmia as quickly as possible.

First of all, we are proudly announcing that the manuscript submission process to the Journal of Arrhythmia will soon become available on the internet websites of both JHRS and APHRS. After streamlining the submission process by using the internet, we are expecting to receive a large number of quality manuscripts not only within Japan, but from the rest of Asia and from other parts of the world. We expect the Journal of Arrhythmia will become more international and as well as one of the most important journals in the arrhythmia and electrophysiology field.

Secondly, from 2012, we will invite more outstanding scientists from all over the world to become part of our international editorial team. We expect that these professionals will make an active contribution to improve the Journal of Arrhythmia. Their valuable contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Thirdly, the Journal of Arrhythmia will increase the frequency of publication to bimonthly regular issues per year, from the current quarterly issues. The valuable contribution of all JHRS and APHRS members are mandatory as we increase our frequency of publication.

Fourthly, the editorial team also wishes to increase the quality of our review article series by inviting internationally outstanding cardiologists and scientists to contribute. It will be very helpful for all the readers of the Journal of Arrhythmia to be exposed to the most advanced knowledge of various fields of arrhythmia and electrophysiology. We will also try to invite young cardiovascular scientists from Asia to submit the review article to stimulate very talented young cardiologists and scientists to become recognized internationally.

Fifthly, we will also publish some special issues about the newly established and the dramatically advanced fields of arrhythmia and cardiac electrophysiology, such as non-
pharmacological treatment of long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation and/or the clinical implications of non-pharmacological treatment for atrial fibrillation.

Sixthly, we will shorten the time for reviews and the publication of Journal of Arrhythmia by inviting more associate editors and reviewers in many fields of arrhythmia and electrophysiology. We will continue our best paper awards (Kimura Research Award) to recognize the authors with the highest levels scientific achievement. We will also start reviewer’s awards to encourage the highest review performances.

Furthermore, in addition to the free online journal system, we will start an e-mail service that will inform a large number of cardiovascular researchers in many countries about the contents of the upcoming issues of the Journal of Arrhythmia.

Finally, again, our new editorial team is very grateful for your strong support and the valuable contribution to the Journal of Arrhythmia.

Kazutaka Aonuma MD PhD
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Arrhythmia