



Europski nacionalni kardiovaskularni časopisi Pozadina, temeljni princip i očitanje o misiji "Kluba urednika"

(Radna skupina Europskog kardiološkog društva)

European National Society Cardiovascular Journals Background, Rationale and Mission Statement of the "Editors' Club"

(Task Force of the European Society of Cardiology)

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Ovaj članak bit će istodobno objavljen u svim časopisima nacionalnih društava u kojima je prihvaćen za objavu.

This manuscript will be simultaneously published in all National Societies Journals that consented to publication.

Kardiovaskularni znanstveni razvoj u Europi bilježi uspjeh u smislu količine i kvalitete. Promicanje visokokvalitetnog istraživanja je glavni cilj Europskog kardiološkog društva (ESC, prema engl. European Society of Cardiology)¹⁻³. ESC ima dva visoko rangirana službena opća časopisa, naime the *European Heart Journal* i *Cardiovascular Research*, u kojima se obrađuju teme vezane za klinička i opća istraživanja¹⁻³. ESC također objavljuje nekoliko subspecialističkih službenih časopisa u kojima se obrađuju teme širokog spektra kardiovaskularnih bolesti kao i tehnika koje se primjenjuju za iste. No, većina europskih zemalja ima i svoje vlastite kardiovaskularne časopise. Kardiovaskularni časopisi pojedinih europskih država (ENSCJ, prema engl. European National Society Cardiovascular Journals) imaju tradicionalnu vrijednost te u klasičnom smislu šire visokokvalitetna znanstvena istraživanja koja uglavnom dolaze iz svake pojedine europske države. Oni također igraju glavnu ulogu u obrazovanju i usklađivanju kliničke prakse. Većina ENSCJ se objavljuju na lokalnim jezicima, ali mnogi od njih uključuju i engleska izdanja. Sve u svemu, ENSCJ predstavljaju visoko učinkovito sredstvo za širenje kardiovaskularnog istraživanja koje se provodi u Europi. Znanje iz područja znanosti ne pozna prepreke i mnogi ovi časopisi su stekli neosporan međunarodni ugled. Neki ENSCJ su upravo u fazi nastanka i koristila bi im potpora europske mreže. Postalo je jasno da bi snažnija suradnja među urednicima ENSCJ-a mogla pomoći u unaprjeđenju znanja i daljnjeg širenja znanstvenih i edukacijskih sadržaja.

Razvijanje "Konstitutivnog dokumenta" i "Očitovanja o misiji" se smatralo poželjnim radi postavljanja osnova

Cardiovascular scientific production in Europe is growing both in quantity and quality. Promoting high-quality research is a major goal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)¹⁻³. The ESC has two highly respected official general journals, namely the *European Heart Journal* and *Cardiovascular Research*, devoted to clinical and basic research respectively¹⁻³. The ESC also publishes several sub-speciality official journals covering the full spectrum of cardiovascular diseases and related techniques. Most European countries, however, also have their own cardiovascular journals. National Society Cardiovascular Journals (NSCJ) are time-honoured and classically disseminate high-quality scientific research mainly originating from each particular European country. They also play a major role in education and harmonisation of clinical practice. Most NSCJ are published in local languages but many of them also incorporate English editions. Altogether, NSCJ provide a highly effective means to disseminate cardiovascular re-search produced in Europe. Scientific knowledge, however, has no barriers and many of these journals have gained an undisputed international profile. Some NSCJ, however, are just emerging and would benefit from networking support. It became clear that enhancing collaboration among NSCJ Editors would facilitate advancement in knowledge and further diffusion of scientific and educative contents.

Developing a "Constitution Document" and "Mission Statement" was considered desirable to set the basis of future collaboration among NSCJ Editors. We assumed this



buduće suradnje urednika ENSCJ-a. Preuzeli smo ovu odgovornost prepoznavši ključnu ulogu ENSCJ-a u Europi. Naš cilj je izraditi i izdati temeljni dokument sa osnovnim načelima s kojima će se suglasiti svi urednici ENSCJ-a. Prepoznat će se zajednički ciljevi te će se realizirati usuglašene mjere. Konstitutivni dokument predstavljen ovdje je stoga izrađen radi davanja formalne note Radnoj skupini kluba urednika ENSCJ-a.

Kardiovaskularni časopisi nacionalnih društava: pozadina i osnovni podaci

Svi glavni urednici službenih kardiovaskularnih časopisa nacionalnih društava ESC-a su *de facto* članovi Kluba urednika. U travnju 2007. godine, tijekom "proljetnih dana" u European Heart House u Nici, ESC odbor je formalno odobrio inicijativu te je službeno osnovana Radna skupina kluba urednika. Organizacija radne skupine se sastoji od jezgre urednika ENSCJ-a i ostaje u okviru odjela članstva ESC-a, kojim koordinira potpredsjednik ESC-a. I dalje uključivanje odjela za izdavaštvo ESC-a će se također smatrati potrebnim.

Poduzete su prve mjere Radne skupine kluba urednika u pogledu dobivanja uvida o tome tko smo mi i gdje smo sada. Prema tome, poduzeto je nekoliko proaktivnih mjera:

1) Na zahtjev ove radne skupine, portal na web stranici ESC-a za ENSCJ je izmijenjen radi poboljšanja njegove vidljivosti. Trenutno se na ovu stranicu može doći ne samo iz područja članova i nacionalnih društava nego i izravno iz znanstvenog područja ESC-a⁴. Jasno je da ENSCJ značajno doprinose opsežnim znanstvenim podacima koje osigurava ESC u cjelini i sukladno tome bi trebalo priznati ovu činjenicu.

2) Elektronička komunikacija zbližava znanstvenu zajednicu. Stoga su ažurirane i realizirane izravne veze sa ENSCJ-ima⁴. Ovime bi se nadalje stimulirala izmjena znanstvenog istraživanja među europskim autorima, istraživačima i čitateljima. Urednici ENSCJ-ova bi trebali podupirati predaju visokokvalitetnih originalnih istraživačkih članaka učinkovitim mrežnim povezivanjem svih europskih časopisa.

3) Kao konačni preliminarni korak, radna skupina se potrudila dobiti podatke o uredništvu i organizaciji od svih dotičnih časopisa. Sukladno tome je zatražena izravna povratna informacija od urednika ENSCJ-ova i predsjednika nacionalnih društava. Izrađen je opširan strukturirani upitnik (23 pitanja). Korporativno slanje i naknadno prikupljanje svih podataka uredništava se jamči uz pomoć odjela za članstvo ESC-a. Obavljaju se kontrole dosljednosti i, ako je potrebno, potvrda s podacima je dobivena izravno od dotičnog nacionalnog urednika. Svi rezultati o pojedinostima ove ankete su trenutno dostupni i besplatni na web stranici ESC-a (metafile nacionalnih časopisa)⁴. Ovaj poslani materijal će se godišnje ažurirati.

Glavni rezultati ove ankete su sljedeći. Ukupno je 40 nacionalnih društava odgovorilo na strukturirani upitnik uključujući ukupno 34 časopisa. Osam nacionalnih društava nema svoj službeni nacionalni časopis, tri baltičke zemlje dijele isti časopis i tri nacionalna društva imaju više

responsibility in recognising the crucial role of NSCJ in Europe. Our target was to produce and issue a core document with fundamental principles upon which all NSCJ Editors would agree. Common goals will be identified and agreed-on measures will be pursued. The constitution document presented herein was therefore developed to formalise the NSCJ Editors' Club Task Force.

National Society Cardiovascular Journals: Background and Basic Data

All Editors-in-Chief of the official cardiovascular journals of the ESC National Societies are *de facto* members of the Editors Club. On April 2007, during the "spring days" at the Heart House in Nice, the ESC Board formally approved the initiative and the Editors' Club Task Force was officially launched. The organisation of the Task Force consists of a Nucleus of NSCJ Editors and remains within the membership division of the ESC, coordinated by the ESC vice-president. Further involvement of the ESC publishing department will be also considered as required.

The initial steps of the Editors' Club Task Force moved in the direction to gain further insights on who we are and where we are now. Accordingly, several proactive measures were taken:

1) Upon request of this Task Force, the portal on the ESC web page for the NSCJ was modified to increase its visibility. Currently, this site may be reached, not only from the area corresponding to members and National Societies, but also directly from the scientific area of the ESC⁴. It is clear that NSCJ significantly contribute to the enormous scientific input provided by the ESC as a whole and appropriate recognition to this fact should be granted.

2) Electronic communication brings the scientific community closer together. Therefore, direct links to NSCJ have been updated and implemented⁴. This would further stimulate exchange of scientific research amongst European authors, researchers and readers. Submission of high quality original research articles should be encouraged by NSCJ Editors, establishing efficient networking tools connecting all European journals.

3) As a final preliminary step, the Task Force strived to obtain detailed editorial and organisational data from all corresponding journals. Accordingly, feedback was directly requested from the NSCJ Editors and Presidents of the National Societies. A comprehensive structured questionnaire (23 items), was devised. Corporate mailing and subsequent collection of all editorial data was guaranteed with the help of the ESC membership department. Consistency checks were performed and, when required, data confirmation was directly obtained from the corresponding national Editor. Full detail results of this survey are currently freely available from the ESC web page (metafile of national journals)⁴. This posted material will be updated annually.

Main results of the survey are as follows. A total of 40 National Societies responded to the structured questionnaire including a total of 34 journals. Eight National Societies have no official journal, the 3 Baltic countries share the



od jednog časopisa. Najstariji kardiovaskularni časopis u Europi je *Archives des Maladies du Coeur et des Vaisseaux* osnovan godine 1908. Ukupno 11 časopisa postoje više od 30 godina, 2 su starija od 20 godina, a 12 se objavljuje više od deset godina. Osim što su ENSCJ na lokalnim jezicima, 12 časopisa je dostupno i na engleskom jeziku (svi tekstovi), a 27 časopisa sustavno uključuje sažetke na engleskom jeziku. Trideset tri časopisa uključuju originalne radove pri čemu se jedan isključivo sastoji od recenzija ili najnovijih članaka. Trinaest časopisa se objavljuje mjesečno. Tiskarska naklada varira od 1.000 do 9.000 primjeraka (prosjeck 3.135 primjeraka). Sustav "recenziranja" je odabran radi ocjene rukopisa od strane 31 časopisa, a 23 časopisa ispunjavaju zahtjeve Međunarodnog odbora urednika medicinskih časopisa. Dvadeset devet je indeksirano (Index Medicus), 18 se pojavljuje u PubMed (MEDLINE), a 5 je dobilo čimbenik odjeka u 2006. godini. Osim tiskanog izdanja, 26 časopisa ima elektroničko izdanje, a 13 je realiziralo i elektronički sustav predaje rukopisa. Web adresu je ponudilo 25 časopisa, pri čemu je 26 publikacija izravno dostupna preko web stranice određenog nacionalnog društva⁴.

Opća urednička razmatranja

Treba razmotriti i tehnička i etička razmatranja.⁵⁻⁸ Unaprjeđivanje standarda kvalitete uredništva je od ključnog značaja radi povećanja privlačnosti naših publikacija u globalnom i krajnje konkurentnom području kardiovaskularne medicine. U tom pogledu, radna skupina vjeruje da bi trebalo uložiti sve napore radi praćenja jedinstvenih preporuka koje je prvobitno izdao Međunarodni odbor urednika medicinskih časopisa (ICMJE) prije gotovo 30 godina. Ove preporuke su tek od nedavno ažurirane (6. izdanje), a naglasak je prebačen sa tehničkih zahtjeva (naglasak na jedinstvenim tehničkim i formalnim aspektima pripreme rukopisa) na opća načela uredničke etike i globalne politike kojima bi se trebalo definirati biomedicinsko izdavaštvo^{5,8}. Tehnički zahtjevi su doista važni radi osiguranja jasnoće, preciznosti i pomoći širenja medicinskih studija. Zauzvrat, realizacija i stroga usklađenost sa ovim zahtjevima konačno podižu sveukupnu kvalitetu istraživanja. U tom pogledu, sugestije koje pružaju CONSORT (Konsolidirani standardi za nasumice odabrana probna izvješćivanja) grupa bi se trebalo pridržavati radi poboljšanja randomiziranih kliničkih ispitivanja.⁹ Ove studije bi trebale biti usklađene sa posebnim zahtjevima, uključujući popis provjera i dijagram tijeka. Trebali bismo imati na umu da je kardiologija jedna od medicinskih disciplina gdje je izvođenje nasumice odabranih ispitivanja mnogo jasnije urodilo plodom, a koncept medicine temeljenoj na dokazima je opće prihvaćen.

Trenutno online uredništvo predstavlja najučinkovitije sredstvo za širenje informacija koje objavljuju časopisi. Posjete elektroničkim izdanjima su sve veće, a skidanje cjelokupnih članaka raste eksponencijalno^{3,10}. Stoga bi elektronička povezanost trebala biti unaprijeđena u smislu da online izdanja časopisa budu vidljivija čitateljima i, ako je moguće, besplatno dostupna. U tom pogledu je predložen

same Journal and 3 National Societies have more than 1 Journal. The oldest cardiovascular journal in Europe is *Archives des Maladies du Coeur et des Vaisseaux* founded in 1908. Overall, 11 journals have more than 30 years of existence, 2 are older than 20 years and 12 have been published for more than a decade. In addition to NSCJ in local languages, 12 journals are also available in English (full text) and 27 journals systematically include English abstracts. Thirty-three journals include original papers whereas 1 exclusively consists of review papers or state of the art articles. Thirteen journals are published monthly. The journals print run varies from 1.000 to 9.000 copies (mean 3.135 copies). A system of "peer review" is selected to evaluate manuscripts by 31 journals and 23 journals adhere to the requirements of the International Committee of Medical Journals Editors. Twenty nine journals are indexed (Index Medicus), 18 appear in PubMed (MEDLINE) and 5 have obtained an impact factor in year 2006. In addition to the print edition, 26 journals have an electronic edition, and 13 have also implemented an electronic system for manuscript submission. A dedicated web page is offered by 25 journals whereas 26 publications are directly accessible via the web page of the corresponding National Society⁴.

General Editorial Considerations

Both, technical and ethical considerations should be addressed^{5,8}. Promoting editorial quality standards is of paramount importance to increase the attractiveness of our publications in the globalised and highly competing field of academic cardiovascular medicine. In this regard the Task Force believes that every effort should be made to follow the uniform recommendations initially issued by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) nearly 30 years ago. These recommendations have been recently updated (6th edition) and the emphasis has shifted from the original technical requirements (focused on unifying technical and formal aspects of manuscript preparation), to general principles of editorial ethics and global policies that should govern biomedical publishing^{5,8}. Technical requirements are indeed important to guaranty clarity, precision and to facilitate dissemination of medical studies. In turn, implementation and strict compliance with these requirements eventually raises the overall quality of research. In this regard, the suggestions provided by the CONSORT (CONsolidated Standards Of Reporting Trials) group should be followed to improve presentation of randomised clinical trials⁹. These studies should comply with special requirements, including a check list and flow diagram. We should keep in mind that cardiology is one of the medical disciplines where performance of randomized trials has more clearly fructified and the concept of evidence-based medicine is widely embraced.

Currently, online editions represent the most efficient means for disseminating the information that journals publish. Visits to electronic editions are ever-increasing and full article downloads grow exponentially^{3,10}. Therefore, electronic connectivity should be facilitated so that online journal editions are made more visible to readers and, if possible, freely available. In this regard, a provocative novel



novi provokativni indeks, tzv. "mrežni čimbenik odjeka", a područje webometrika je upravo u fazi nastajanja.

S druge strane, etička razmatranja izravno utječu na kredibilitet znanstvenog sadržaja. Stoga bi ona trebala osigurati transparentnost, povjerenje i iskrenost u znanstvenom procesu izvođenja i objave istraživanja⁵⁻⁸. Konačna svrha je zaštititi proces znanstvene razmjene. Trebalo bi priznati da se veliki dio korporativnog istraživanja u zadnje vrijeme preusmjerio sa akademskih i fakultetskih centara na ugovore između sponzora i privatnih ugovornih istraživačkih organizacija. Sukladno tome, jasno obznanjivanje uloge sponzora u koncipiranju, vođenju, analiziranju, tumačenju i jamčenju ispitivanja postaje sve više važna. Ostali koncepti uredničke slobode i uredničke neovisnosti su u zadnje vrijeme naglašeni od strane ICMJE, WAME (Svjetsko udruženje urednika medicinskih časopisa) i CSE (Vijeće znanstvenih urednika)⁵⁻⁸. Ovlast i autonomija su ključni za osiguranje odgovarajućih odluka urednika. U tom pogledu, urednici ENSCJ-a bi trebali ljubomorno čuvati uredničku neovisnost svojih nacionalnih časopisa.

Postupak recenzije — usprkos ograničenjima — je podignut na najvišu razinu i trenutno se smatra glavnim dijelom uredničkog znanstvenog procesa. Stoga bi trebali razvijati standarde za izvrsnost recenzije. To zahtjeva pouzdanost u prosuđivanju i stručnost u tom području. Urednici su odgovorni za praćenje i osiguranje pouzdanosti, trajnosti i temeljitosti u ovom procesu⁵⁻⁸.

Ostalim pitanjima kao što je sukob interesa (za autore, recenzente i urednike) i zahtjevima za stjecanje statusa autora nastoji se zaštititi kredibilitet znanstvenih informacija. Trebalo bi provoditi objavljivanje mogućih sukoba interesa. Objavljivanje podataka i prihvaćanje potpune odgovornosti za predstavljanje točnih podataka i njihovih tumačenja predstavljaju glavna pitanja za razmatranje. Trebalo bi održavati povjerljivost i dogovorene zabrane. Pristrano objavljivanje (selektivno objavljivanje pozitivnih rezultata i neobjavljivanje studija sa negativnim rezultatima) bi trebali spriječiti urednici ENSCJ-a. Cjelokupni proces objavljivanja se temelji na kredibilitetu, povjerenju, autentičnosti i znanstvenoj iskrenosti⁵⁻⁸. Kako bi nadalje sačuvali znanstveni kredibilitet, urednici ENSCJ-a bi trebali uskladiti svoje politike u pogledu znanstvenog nedoličnog ponašanja kao i znanstvene prijevare¹¹⁻¹⁶. Skupina kardiovaskularnih urednika The HEART Group (Okrugli stol akcije urednika kardiovaskularnih časopisa) je izdala zajednički dokument koji se uglavnom bavi pitanjem redundantnog objavljivanja¹². Konačno bi trebalo razmotriti objavljivanje bilješki "izraza zabrinutosti" ili čak povlačenje objavljenog materijala. Treba ukinuti i barem obznaniti strategije objavljivanja istog sadržaja uz male izmjene u više časopisa odnosno dupliciranje sadržaja¹¹⁻¹⁶. Sekundarne publikacije, čak i na različitim jezicima, bi trebale biti usklađene sa zahtjevima ICMJE-a⁵.

Konačno, poticanje bibliometrijskih indeksa je ključno za stjecanje međunarodnog priznanja. Čimbenik odjeka (Journal Citation Reports) predstavlja široko prihvaćeno sredstvo ocjenjivanja prestižnih znanstvenih časopisa. No, trebalo bi priznati greške u izračunu čimbenika odjeka, a znanstvene ili skolastične vrijednosti ne bi trebalo nagra-

index, know as the "web impact factor", has been proposed and the field of webometrics is just emerging.

On the other hand, ethical considerations directly affect the credibility of the scientific content. Therefore, they should ensure transparency, trust and honesty in the scientific process involved in performance and publication of research⁵⁻⁸. The final purpose is to protect the process of scientific exchange. It should be acknowledged that a sizeable bulk of corporative research has recently moved from academic and university centres to close agreements between sponsors and private contract research organisations. Accordingly, explicitly disclosing the role of the sponsor in designing, conducting, analysing, interpreting and writing up the trial is becoming increasingly relevant. Other concepts such as Editorial Freedom and Editorial Independence have been recently emphasised by the ICMJE, WAME (Word Association of Medical Editors) and CSE (Council of Science Editors)⁵⁻⁸. Authority and autonomy are critical to ensure appropriate editorial decisions. In this regard, NSCJ Editors should jealously safeguard the editorial independence of their respective national journals.

The peer review process — despite its limitations — has been enthroned at the highest level and it is now currently identified as an essential part of the editorial scientific process. Therefore, standards for peer review excellence should be developed. This requires both fairness in judgement and expertise in the field. Editors are responsible for monitoring and ensuring fairness, timeliness, and thoroughness in this process⁵⁻⁸.

Other issues such as conflicts of interest (for authors, reviewers and editors) and requirements for authorship are also intended to protect the credibility of the scientific information. Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest should be enforced. Disclosure on data accessibility and accepting a full responsibility for accurate data presentation and interpretation are key considerations. Confidentiality and agreed-on embargos should be maintained. Publication bias (selective reporting of positive findings and lack of publication of studies with negative results) should be prevented by NSCJ Editors. The whole publication process is based on the credibility, trust, authenticity and scientific honesty⁵⁻⁸. To further preserve scientific credibility, NSCJ Editors should harmonise their policies regarding scientific misconduct and scientific fraud¹¹⁻¹⁶. The HEART Group (Heart Editors Action Round Table) of cardiovascular editors issued a consensus document focused on redundant publication¹². Eventually, publishing "expression of concern" notes or even retraction of published material should be considered. Salami slicing and shot gunning publication strategies should be discouraged and, at least, disclosed¹¹⁻¹⁶. Secondary publications, even in different languages, should follow the ICMJE requirements⁵.

Finally, stimulating bibliometric indexes is of clear interest to gain international recognition. The impact factor (Journal Citation Reports) represents a widely accepted means to evaluate the scientific prestige of journals. However, flaws in the impact factor calculation should be acknowledged and research or scholarly merits should not be rewarded based on the impact factor of the journal in which



divati na temelju čimbenika odjeka časopisa čiji se članci konačno objavljuju^{2,17-19}. Treba izbjegavati čimbenik utjecaja. No, urednici ENSCJ-a bi trebali razviti zajednički pristup radi poticanja difuzije europskih studija isključivo na temelju znanstvene kvalitete i kliničkih relevantnih kriterija. Ovime bi se prevladala trenutna pristranost za citate, osobito u slučaju biomedicinskih časopisa koji nisu na engleskom jeziku¹⁷. Toplo preporučljivo smatra se zajedničko podupiranje europskog istraživanja sve većim prepoznavanjem europske znanstvene i uredničke kvalitete.

Temeljni princip Kluba urednika

ENSCJ-i su heterogeni te se osim toga objavljuju na različitim jezicima. Na taj način se ističe da je suradnja među urednicima ENSCJ-a ključna radi izbjegavanja konfuzije i nerazumijevanja što je prepreka učinkovitom širenju znanstvenih informacija diljem Europe. Čak se i relativno mali časopisi ne bi trebali okarakterizirati kao ostracizam, nego bi se trebali smatrati vrlo uspješnim ako šire informacije i ako vrlo su cijenjeni od strane njihovih čitatelja. Trebalo bi rušiti granice i osloboditi znanstvene spoznaje iz svih okova koje nameću jezik, logistička, birokratska i ekonomska ograničenja. Izrazito preporučujemo uzajamnu povezanost europskih časopisa. Treba poticati međusobna pozivanja jednih s drugima, ali samo onda ako se temelje na strogim kriterijima kvalitete znanstvenih informacija. Trebalo bi izraditi minimalni popis važnih pitanja sa načelima s kojima bi se mogli složiti svi ENSCJ. Treba spremno prepoznati zajedničke ciljeve, prioritete, izazove. Konačno, treba donositi proaktivne globalne odluke kako bi stekli širu publiku.

No, sve gore opisane preporuke za urednike ostavljaju dovoljno prostora za specifične politike urednika koje oblikuju određeni interes svakog posebnog časopisa. Prostor za raznolikost se treba ljubomorno čuvati budući da se središte pažnje i opseg nacionalnih časopisa zapravo razlikuju. Ipak, napredak u znanju se postiže razmjenom novih informacija od strane istraživača, a urednici ENSCJ-a imaju punu odgovornost u smislu poticanja suradnje među europskim istraživačima.

Ovdje bismo željeli predstaviti tri tipična primjera gdje bi se mogli primijeniti naponi u postizanju suradnje:

1) Trebalo bi prodiskutirati nove preporuke kojima se sugerira registracija svih kliničkih ispitivanja prije konačnog objavljivanja u smislu trenutnog postojanja administrativnih nacionalnih zakona i novijih europskih uredbi (EudraCT). Treba razmotriti prijedloge za jedinstvenim europskim "repozitorijem" kliničkih ispitivanja koja udovoljavaju ne samo administrativnim i regulatornim propisima, nego isto tako i uredničkim zahtjevima (uključujući besplatan pristup javnosti)^{20,21}. Ovim će se omogućiti rano prepoznavanje nepravilnih promjena u izradi ispitivanja ili metodoloških grešaka. Konačno, većina urednika ENSCJ-a bi se mogla ujediniti u davanju jedinstvenih preporuka i izradi zajedničkih uredničkih politika i platforme se mogu izrađivati na europskoj razini.

2) Suradnja među urednicima ENSCJ-a je temeljna za daljnje širenje i poticanje kliničkih primjena smjernica za kliničke postupke ESC-a. Nakon odobrenja od strane na-

articles are eventually published^{2,17-19}. Padding the impact factor should be discouraged. However, NSCJ Editors should develop common policies to stimulate diffusion of European studies exclusively based on scientific quality and clinical relevance criteria. This would overcome current citation biases, particularly against non-English biomedical journals¹⁷. Joint support of European research by increasing recognition of European scientific and editorial quality is considered, therefore, highly advisable.

Rationale for the Editors' Club

European NSCJ are heterogeneous and, above all, are published in different languages. This highlights that cooperation among NSCJ Editors is crucial to avoid "Tower of Babel" phenomena precluding efficient dissemination of scientific information across Europe. Even relatively humble journals should not be condemned to ostracism but rather considered highly successful providing they have a broad dissemination and are deeply appreciated by their readers. We should break boundaries and set free scientific knowledge from any constrictions generated by language, logistic, bureaucratic or economic barriers. Cross-links between European Journals are highly advisable. Cross-references should be stimulated but only when based on strict criteria of scientific quality. A minimal list of important issues should be developed with principles that all NSCJ Editors could agree upon. Common goals, priorities and challenges should be readily identifiable. Finally, proactive global decisions should be made in order to capture a wider audience.

All the above described editorial recommendations, however, leave enough room for specific editorial policies that shape the particular interest of every specific journal. Room for diversity should be jealously maintained as the focus and scope of different national journals actually differ. Nevertheless, advancement in knowledge is founded in the exchange of novel information by investigators, and NSCJ Editors have full responsibility for stimulating cooperation among European researches.

Here, we would like to present three typical examples where these collaborative efforts could be applicable:

1) Novel recommendations suggesting to register all clinical trials prior to definitive publication should be discussed on the light of currently available administrative national laws and recent European directives (EudraCT). Proposals for a uniform European "Repository" of clinical trials fulfilling not only administrative and regulatory issues but also editorial requirements (including free public access) should be considered^{20,21}. This will allow early recognition of undue trial design changes or methodological flaws. Eventually, most NSCJ Editors could joint uniform recommendations and common editorial policies and platforms might be devised at a European level.

2) Collaboration among NSCJ Editors is essential to further disseminate and promote clinical application of ESC clinical practice guidelines. After endorsement by National Societies, translation of these guidelines into national local languages should facilitate their implementation into clinical practice²²⁻²⁷. Foot notes, incorporating comments of



cionalnih društava, prijevodom ovih smjernica na nacionalne jezike bi se trebala olakšati realizacija kliničkog postupka²²⁻²⁷. Fusnote, uvrštavanje komentara lokalnih stručnjaka su ključne u ovom pogledu. Objavljivanje ovih smjernica u ENSCJ-ima bi trebala udovoljavati općim pravilima za "sekundarno objavljivanje", nakon odobrenja primarnog objavljivanja u časopisu European Heart Journal. Ipak, pitanje rokova i ovaj detaljan i strogi urednički proces (koji obično utječe na dugačke dokumente) bi se trebao razraditi radi usmjeravanja prevoditeljskog procesa i praćenja njegove točnosti. Bila bi poželjna implementacija "ranog prevoditeljskog procesa". Potpuna suradnja između urednika ENSCJ-a i odbora ESC-a smjernica postupka je stoga od ključne važnosti. Krug znanja će se zatvoriti nakon što bude osigurana povratna informacija širenjem odabranih nacionalnih registara koji će razjasniti lokalne postupke u njezi pacijenata^{28,29}. Time će se pomoći pri razjašnjenju uspjeha, realizacije i implementacije različitih inicijativa ESC-a, na nacionalnoj razini. Nadamo se da će dvosmjerna razmjena znanja pomoći široj implementaciji ovih preporuka i usklađivanju kardiovaskularnih postupaka diljem Europe. Konačno, jedinstvenim i dosljednim kliničkim postupcima bi se trebala unaprijediti njega pacijenata.

3) I dalje ostaje izazov poticanje širenja službenih kliničkih ispitivanja ESC-a prevodenjem njihovih sažetaka na lokalne jezike i objavljivanjem glavnih rezultata ovih važnih studija pri čemu se maksimalna pažnja posvećuje čuvanju znanstvene cjelovitosti i točnosti^{30,31}. Ovaj konačni prijedlog će zahtijevati, još jednom usku suradnju između znanstvenih tijela ESC-a, odjela za izdavaštvo ESC-a i urednika ENSCJ-a.

Očitovanje o misiji

1. Pojačati suradnju među urednicima ENSCJ-a. Glavna funkcija ove radne skupine je unaprjeđivati interakciju među urednicima ENSCJ-a. Odabrane teme urednika će se prodiskutirati te obraditi koristeći sistematski i cjeloviti pristup. Osnovati će se stalni i "ad hoc" odbori. Trebalo bi izraditi zajedničke uredničke politike. Već prema potrebi izdavati će se uvodni članci, jedinstveni zahtjevi i konsenzus dokumenti. Organizirati će se redovni sastanci (godišnji kongres ESC-a i ostali) te će se predlagati formalni dnevni red.

2. Unaprjeđivati uredničku izvrsnost. Glavni cilj ove radne skupine je izraditi sredstva za poboljšanje znanstvenih standarda ENSCJ-a. Unaprjeđivati će se znanstveni sadržaj, zahtjevi za kvalitetom, kredibilitet, te urednička i istraživačka etika⁵⁻⁸.

3. Poboljšati širenje znanstvenih spoznaja. Usklađivanjem uredničkih inicijativa među ENSCJ-ima kao i službenih časopisa ESC-a nadalje će se promicati širenje uredničkog i znanstvenog sadržaja. Razvijanje zajedničkih strategija u cilju povećanja svjesnosti visokokvalitetnog znanstvenog istraživanja nastalog u Europi će zauzvrat pozitivno utjecati na bibliometrijske pokazatelje. Trebalo bi promicati prepoznavanje i širenje europskog kardiovaskularnog istraživanja, smjernice kliničke prakse ESC-a i druge znanstvene i edukacijske inicijative. Trebala bi se olakšati

local experts, are pivotal in this regard. Publication of these guidelines in NSCJ should follow the general rules for "secondary publication", after primary publication in the European Heart Journal has been granted. Nevertheless, time matters, and this detailed and rigorous editorial process (typically affecting uniquely long documents) should be expedited to streamline the translation process and to monitor its accuracy. Implementation of an "early translation process" would be desirable. A full collaboration between NSCJ Editors and the ESC committee of practice guidelines is, therefore, of paramount importance. The circle of knowledge will be closed when the corresponding feedback is ensured by dissemination of selected national activity registries unraveling local practices in patient care^{28,29}. This will help to elucidate success, viability and implementation of different ESC initiatives at the national level. Hopefully, this bidirectional exchange in knowledge will promote widespread implementation of these recommendations and harmonisation of cardiovascular practices across Europe. Eventually, uniform and consistent clinical practices should translate into improvements in patient care.

3) Boosting dissemination of official ESC late breaking clinical trials, by readily translating their abstracts into local languages and publishing the main results of these important studies, while paying maximal attention to preserve accuracy and scientific integrity, remains a challenge^{30,31}. This final proposal will require, once more, a close coordination between ESC scientific bodies, ESC publishing department and NSCJ Editors.

Mission Statement

1. To increase collaboration among NSCJ Editors. The main purpose of this Task Force is to foster interaction among NSCJ Editors. Selected editorial topics will be discussed and addressed using a systematic and comprehensive approach. Standing and "ad hoc" committees will be created. Common editorial policies should be developed. As needed, editorials, uniform requirements, and consensus documents will be issued. Regular meetings (annual ESC Congress and others) will be scheduled and a formal agenda will be proposed.

2. To promote editorial excellence. A major objective of the Task Force is to devise means to improve the scientific standards of NSCJ. Scientific content, quality requirements, credibility, and editorial and research ethics will be promoted⁵⁻⁸.

3. To improve diffusion of scientific knowledge. Coordination of editorial initiatives among NSCJ and also official ESC journals will further facilitate diffusion of editorial and scientific content. To develop common strategies to increase awareness of the high quality scientific research generated in Europe which, in turn, would positively affect bibliometric indicators. Recognition and diffusion of European cardiovascular research, ESC clinical practice guidelines and other scientific or education initiatives should be promoted. Distribution of common academic material, core curriculum, and additional teaching tools should be also facilitated. Fostering of electronic editions should be encouraged to increase diffusion and NSCJ visibility.

4. To share technical editorial information, experiences, initiatives, publishing resources and technical tools among NSCJ Editors. To address common issues regarding



distribucija zajedničkog akademskog materijala, temeljnog kurikulumu kao i dodatnih nastavnih sredstava. Trebalo bi podupirati elektronička izdanja radi veće čitavnosti i vidljivosti ENSCJ-a.

4. Dijeliti tehničke uredničke informacije, iskustva, inicijative, izvore objavljivanja i tehnička sredstva među urednicima ENSCJ-a. Obradivati zajedničke teme koje se tiču besplatnog pristupa znanstvenom sadržaju. Predvidjeti zajedničke strategije kako bi stupili u dinamično polje standardiziranih platformi za predaju rukopisa. Usvojiti zajedničke politike usmjerene ka povećanju učinkovitosti procesa objavljivanja. Promicati paralelno elektronička i engleska izdanja u sve većem broju ENSCJ-a te konačno, dijeliti izvore kopiranja i uređivanja. Zajedničkim naporima učinkovitije rješavati problem ograničenih izdavačkih izvora te konačno osigurati gospodarsku održivost ENSCJ-a.

5. Osigurati radni okvir i skup podataka kojim će se osigurati budući zajednički rad i sveobuhvatne europske izdavačke inicijative. Nadalje poticati suradnju među urednicima ENSCJ-a i znanstvenih tijela ESC-a te izdavačkog odjela. Na taj način će se moći lako usklađivati promicanje središta pozornosti, teme ili monografskih tema, obrada gorućih kardiovaskularnih tema.

6. Odnosi s javnošću. Osigurati zajedničke radnje kod iniciranja pitanja koja se tiču ENSCJ. Funkcionirati kao veza u odnosima s vladinim tijelima, stručnim i znanstvenim organizacijama, industrijom, medijima i javnošću.

7. Unaprjeđivati suradnju između nacionalnih društava i ESC-a. Premostiti razlike između službenih časopisa ESC-a i ENSCJ-a. Promicati europske napore u cilju poticanja objava kvalitetnog istraživanja.

Konačne napomene

Svi podaci iz ovog dokumenta predstavljaju osnovu za pružanje potpore ovoj uzbudljivoj izdavačkoj inicijativi. Urednici ENSCJ-a bi trebali progresivno prilagođavati svoje lokalne politike, uključujući davanje uputa autorima da se pridržavaju općih uredničkih preporuka^{5-8,32,33}. Glavni izazov Kluba urednika će biti poticanje konsenzusa i dogovora oko strateških prioriteta među ENSCJ-ima. Trebalo bi poboljšati opseg i kvalitetu članaka, a strateške radnje bi se trebale usmjeriti na pojačano uključivanje većine ENSCJ-ova u renomirane međunarodne bibliografske baze podataka i elektroničke tražilice. Zajedničkim naporima bi se trebalo nastojati proširiti distribuciju i širenje ovih časopisa te konsolidirati njihov prestiž i prepoznavanje od strane međunarodne znanstvene zajednice. Glavni ciljevi ovog pionirskog napora su stoga već sasvim jasni: pojačati suradnju među urednicima ENSCJ-a, povećanje uredničkih standarda, poboljšanje zahtjeva za kvalitetom, očuvanje etike objavljivanja, jamčenje znanstvene kredibilitnosti i proširenje znanstvenog znanja.

Obveza urednika ENSCJ-a u postizanju ovih ciljeva je ključna i ovaj forum kluba urednika bi trebao pružiti jedinstvenu priliku promicanja globalnih uredničkih postupaka. Trebalo bi kritički ocjenjivati rezultate i posljedice ovih ambicioznih uredničkih inicijativa.

Zahvala: Stalna pomoć Anne Mascarelli (ESC) zaslužuje posebno priznanje.

free access to scientific content. To foresee common strategies to advance into the dynamic field of standardised platforms for manuscript submission. To adopt common policies aimed to increase efficiency in the publication process. To promote parallel electronic and English-editions in an increasing number of NSCJ and, eventually, sharing copy-editing resources. To develop joint efforts to more efficiently tackle the problem of finite editorial resources and, finally, to ensure economic viability of NSCJ.

5. To provide an operative framework and dataset that will enable future joint ventures and comprehensive European publishing initiatives. To further stimulate collaboration between NSCJ Editors and the ESC scientific bodies and publishing department. In this way, promotion of spotlight, theme or monographic issues, covering burning cardiovascular topics, might be nicely coordinated.

6. Public relations. To provide a common voice when issues concerning NSCJ arise. To serve as a liaison in the relations with governmental bodies, professional or scientific organisations, industry, the media and the public.

7. To foster collaboration between national societies and the ESC. To close the gap between ESC official journals and NSCJ. To promote European incentives to stimulate publication of quality research.

Final Remarks

All the information presented in the present document set the basis to support this exciting editorial initiative. NSCJ Editors should be committed to progressively adapt their local policies, including instructions to authors, to follow general editorial recommendations^{5-8,32,33}. The main challenge of the Editors Club will be to foster consensus and agreements upon strategic priorities among NSCJ. The breadth and quality of articles should be improved and strategic actions should be aimed to foster inclusion of most NSCJ in well respected international bibliographic databases and electronic search systems. Joint efforts should aim to broaden distribution and dissemination of these journals and to consolidate their prestige and recognition by the international scientific community. The main goals of this pioneering effort are, therefore, already quite clear: to increase collaboration among NSCJ Editors, enhance editorial standards, improve quality requirements, preserve publication ethics, guarantee scientific credibility and expand dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Commitment of NSCJ Editors to achieve these objectives is crucial and this Editors Club emerging forum should provide a unique opportunity to foster global editorial policies. Overtime, the results and implications of these ambitious editorial initiatives should be critically evaluated.

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Appendix

National society journal names (by alphabetic order of Country origin) and Members (Editor-in-Chief) of the Editors' Club Task Force are listed below:

<u>NS Name</u>	<u>NS Journal</u>	<u>Chief-Editors' Name</u>
Albanian Society of Cardiology	Revista Shqiptare e Kardiologjisë	Anesti Kondili
Algerian Society of Cardiology	Journal de la Société Algérienne de Cardiologie	Djamaleddine Nibouche
Armenian Cardiologists Association	Armenian Journal of Cardiology	Karlen Adamyan
Austrian Society of Cardiology	Journal für Kardiologie*	Kurt Huber
Belgian Society of Cardiology	Acta Cardiologica	Hugo Ector
Ass. of Cardiologists of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Medicinski arhiv	Izet Mašić
Bulgarian Society of Cardiology	Bulgarian Journal of Cardiology	Rumiana Tarnovska
Croatian Cardiac Society	Kardio list	Mario Ivanuša
Czech Society of Cardiology	Cor et Vasa	Vladimír Staněk
Danish Society of Cardiology	Cardiologisk Forum	Jørgen Videbaek
Egyptian Society of Cardiology	Egyptian Heart Journal	Mohamed Hamed
Estonian Society of Cardiology	Seminars in Cardiovascular Medicine**	Aleksandras Laucevicius
Finnish Cardiac Society	Sydänääni (Heart Beat)	Pirjo Mustonen
French Society of Cardiology	Archives des Maladies du Cœur et des Vaisseaux	Jean-Yves Artigou
Georgian Society of Cardiology	Archives of Cardiovascular Diseases	Ariel Cohen
German Cardiac Society	Scientific-Practical Journal	Mamanti Rogava
	Clinical Research in Cardiology	Michael Böhm
	Clinical Research in Cardiology Supplements	Eckart Fleck
	Basic Research in Cardiology	Gerd Heusch
	Cardio News	Rainer Klawki
Hellenic Cardiological Society	Hellenic Journal of Cardiology	Panos Vardas
		Christodoulos Stefanadis
Hungarian Society of Cardiology	Cardiologia Hungarica	József Tenczer
Italian Federation of Cardiology	Journal of Cardiovascular Medicine (English)	Massimo Chiariello
	Giornale Italiano Di Cardiologia (Italian)	Giuseppe Ambrosio
Latvian Society of Cardiology	Seminars in Cardiovascular Medicine**	Aleksandras Laucevicius
Lebanese Society of Cardiology	Heart News	Joseph Elias
Lithuanian Society of Cardiology	Seminars in Cardiovascular Medicine**	Aleksandras Laucevicius
Moroccan Society of Cardiology	Revue Marocaine de Cardiologie	Halima Benjelloun
Netherlands Society of Cardiology	Netherlands Heart Journal	Ernst E. van der Wall
Norwegian Society of Cardiology	HjerteForum - The Journal of the Norwegian Society of Cardiology	Olaf Rødevand
Polish Cardiac Society	Kardiologia Polska — Polish Heart Journal	Piotr Kulakowski
Portuguese Society of Cardiology	Revista Portuguesa de Cardiologia	Fausto J. Pinto
Romanian Society of Cardiology	Romanian Heart Journal	Eduard Apetrei
Russian Federation Society of Cardiology	Russian Journal of Cardiology	Victor A. Lusov
	Cardiovascular Therapy and Prevention	Rafael G. Oganov
Cardiology Society of Serbia	Kardiologija	Velibor Obradović
Slovak Society of Cardiology	Kardiológia/Cardiology	Gabriel Kamensky
Slovenian Society of Cardiology	Slovene Cardiology	Miran F. Kenda
Spanish Society of Cardiology	Revista Española de Cardiología	Fernando Alfonso
Swedish Society of Cardiology	Svensk Cardiologi	Christer Höglund
Swiss Society of Cardiology	Kardiovaskuläre Medizin	Thomas F. Lüscher
		René Lerch
Syrian Cardiovascular Association	Heart Forum	Moufid Jokhadar
Tunisian Society of Cardiology	Cardiologie Tunisienne	Habib Haouala
Turkish Society of Cardiology	Archives of the Turkish Society of Cardiology	Vedat Sansoy
Ukrainian Society of Cardiology	Ukrainian Journal of Cardiology	Valentin Shumakov
British Cardiovascular Society (UK)	Heart	Adam Timmis

* not official National Society journal, but major cardiology journal in Austria

** common journal for the Baltic countries



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