

EDITORIAL

The Pathway to a High Impact Journal and Scopus Indexation – New Achievement of the International Journal of Cardiovascular Sciences

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"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

Henry Ford

The *International Journal of Cardiovascular Sciences* (*IJCS*) has finally achieved its inclusion in one of the most important abstract and citation databases: Scopus. This international database is sponsored by Elsevier and was launched in 2004. Scopus covers over 25,100 titles (over 23,452 peer-reviewed journals) from approximately 5,000 publishers. *IJCS* has made some important changes to be accepted in Scopus, including an entirely new and highly interactive website (ijcs cardiol.org), a renovation of the editorial board with a more diverse international team of experts in cardiovascular sciences, adoption of open science directives¹ and gender equity policies,² and a high bar for evaluation of articles for publication. These changes contributed to better results concerning the impact of the journal. From 2017 to 2020, *IJCS* published 390 articles (191 original articles). *IJCS* articles were cited 493 times. *IJCS*'s h-index is 13 (Google Scholar), and published articles had 573,736 accesses on SciELO. The rejection rate of *IJCS* is 46%, and average time for article acceptance is 77 days.

Inclusion in Scopus promotes long-term changes for a scientific journal; there is an increase in internationalization and an improvement in the impact of the articles. Moed et al found that, after a nationally oriented journal is included

in Scopus, the use of English as publication language and open access status are important determinants of internationalization in the long term.³ *IJCS* has been compliant to these since 2018. Furthermore, the authors showed that national journals from USA, Japan, Brazil, and Iran evaluated after the year they entered Scopus revealed a broadening of the citation impact compared to the overall average.³ This is important because *IJCS* now will be ranked in Scopus in the cardiology and cardiovascular medicine subject category and can be compared with its partners. Elsevier publishes three journal metrics based on the Scopus citation database: (1) the Source-Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP); (2) the Impact per Publication (IPP); and (3) the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). SJR is used by the Brazilian Ministry of Education to qualify journals for the evaluation of post-graduate programs. SJR accounts for both the number of citations received by a journal and the importance or prestige of the journals from where such citations come.⁴

Accessing the 2020 SJR rank, we can find 349 journals in the cardiology and cardiovascular medicine subject category, most from North America and Europe. There are 12 journals in this subject from Latin America (Table 1). The best ranked journal from Latin America is *Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia* (*ABC Cardiol*), with SJR of 0.400. Like *IJCS*, *ABC Cardiol* is sponsored by the Brazilian Society of Cardiology. *IJCS* will be soon ranked by SCImago, and authors and reader will be able to use the ranking to evaluate the journal's impact. Our aim is to increase the impact factor of *IJCS* so that it will be comparable to that of *ABC Cardiol*, which recently obtained the highest ranking in its history.⁵

Journal rankings and scores are used for a list of academic and economic activities: (1) by academic

Keywords

Cardiology; Periodicals as Topic/standards; Abstracting and Indexing as Topic/methods; Editorial Policies; Databases, Bibliographic/trends; Citation Databases; Journal Impact Factor.

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committees to assess performance of competitors, (2) by scientists to choose journals to which they will submit their research findings, (3) for professional promotion inside scientific institutions, and (4) by publishers seeking to promote their journals to attract submissions.⁴ There are many problems with impact factors and journal rankings, and the Leiden Manifesto published in 2015 is a reference for better science evaluation and interactions with society.⁶ Research metrics are important, but the social impact of this research is one of the most crucial aspects that we can measure from a high-quality science evaluation process. Four of the five most visited articles from *IJCS* are dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 on the cardiovascular system, and the two most visited are devoted to the interactions between COVID and physical activity.^{7,8} *IJCS* promoted several changes to facilitate COVID-19 papers to be evaluated and published in a timely manner. The social impact of these articles has been clearly demonstrated by

the interest created in the scientific community. We hope that the association of good science, social driven impact, and the internationalization related to Scopus indexation will be significant steps toward *IJCS* becoming a high-impact cardiovascular journal. By evaluating hundreds of articles, sending thousands of emails to reviewers and authors, and issuing hundreds of opinions and a critical analysis of comprehensive cardiovascular scientific production, we have managed to take the *IJCS* to a new level of international visibility, make it more attractive to high-quality science, and contribute to the transformation of society. This is the objective of a scientific journal: to bring high-quality information and peer-reviewed data that can change the status quo. We still have a long way to go, but we are confident that we will get there by working as a team. Thank you very much to all who contributed for the hard work done. Together we can make a difference in a world that desperately needs solutions for its problems.

Table 1 – SCImago 2020 ranking information from cardiology and cardiovascular medicine journals

Title	SJR	Quartile	H-index	Country	Publisher
Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia	0.400	Q3	53	Brazil	Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia
Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery	0.324	Q3	26	Brazil	Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular
Jornal Vascular Brasileiro	0.224	Q3	15	Brazil	Sociedade Brasileira de Angiologia e Cirurgia Vascular
Revista Latinoamericana de Hipertension	0.210	Q3	7	Venezuela	Sociedad Latinoamericana de Hipertension
Revista Argentina de Cardiologia	0.155	Q4	11	Argentina	Sociedad Argentina De Cardiologia
Archivos de Cardiologia de Mexico	0.149	Q4	17	Mexico	Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia Ignacio Chavez
Revista Colombiana de Cardiologia	0.125	Q4	10	Colombia	Sociedad Colombiana de Cardiologia y Cirugia Cardiovascular
Revista de la Federacion Argentina de Cardiologia	0.112	Q4	5	Argentina	Federacion Argentina de Cardiologia
Revista Mexicana de Cardiologia	0.108	Q4	5	Mexico	Asociacion Nacional de Cardiolosgos de Mexico
Revista Mexicana de Enfermeria Cardiologica	0.105	Q4	2	Mexico	Sociedad Mexicana de Cardiologia
Insuficiencia Cardiaca	0.101	Q4	5	Argentina	Silver Horse S.R.L.
Revista Mexicana de Angiologia	0.101	Q4	3	México	Sociedad Mexicana De Angiologia

Legend: SJR: SCImago Journal Rank. Source: <https://www.scimagojr.com/>.

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