

FROM THE EDITOR

Hellenic Journal of Cardiology: New era and new role



The Hellenic Journal of Cardiology, one of the cornerstones of the Hellenic Cardiological Society, is moving into a new age with new aims appropriate to our competitive times. I feel proud and honoured to have been chosen by our Society to lead this transition, flanked by highly qualified colleagues devoted to medical science and academic values.

I feel the weight of this responsibility especially since I am taking over from Professor P. Toutouzas, a pillar of our cardiological community, who has done a fine and productive job in maintaining a publication of such high quality for so long.

Undoubtedly, our own efforts will be judged by their results after a few years—now is the time to define the boundaries of our principal goals with forethought and without immoderation.

The Hellenic Journal of Cardiology, first and foremost, will continue to serve the educational and research requirements of Greek cardiologists. However, it is also essential to make every effort to have our journal included in respected international databases such as Medline and Index Medicus.

Our second aim must be to develop the journal as a communication link with Greek and philhellene cardiologists abroad. The Greek diaspora is clearly of great importance for our country. This journal should be a means of expression, communication and presentation to the Greek cardiological community of the activities of all its members, who

perhaps tend to pay more attention to international scientific events than to developments at the national level.

To make this role feasible, we consider it essential to develop an English edition of the journal in parallel with the Greek. The English edition will be distributed to libraries in other countries and to clinics and individuals who have scientific contacts with our Society. This is sure to be a difficult and expensive initiative whose outcome cannot be certain.

We are also aware that already well-known publications are being plagued by a variety of problems. Personally, I tend to take an optimistic view of any strategy that is based on carefully selected, achievable goals.

My hope is that during the coming years, with some help from us all, our journal will become better known, will be included in international electronic databases and will come to be recognised as a bridge between our Society and all members of the international cardiological community, not only those of Greek origin. Whether that hope will be fulfilled remains to be seen.

We will do our utmost to achieve our purpose, as did all our predecessors who sacrificed their time and served this journal with outstanding success during the fifty years of its history.

Panos E. Vardas