

## Editor's Page

# HJC: Targets, Aims and Plans

PANOS E. VARDAS

*Department of Cardiology, Heraklion University Hospital, Crete, Greece*



**T**he Hellenic Journal of Cardiology (HJC) has been published without interruption for the last forty-five years, providing consistent, high-quality service to Greek cardiologists.

Dipping into the early volumes of the journal, apart from being moved by the thought of the prominent cardiologists of this country who are no longer with us, the reader is impressed by the exceptional texts of the day, but also cannot help being stunned by the rapid development of diagnosis and treatment in cardiology.

Throughout those years, the HJC provided a Greek-language home for the main written output of Greek cardiologists – especially important at a time when our participation in international medical journals was limited.

Today, many things have changed in both international and national medical publishing. Medical journals have proliferated, electronic communication has taken the world by storm and many Greek cardiologists are now certainly able to understand an English medical text.

In this competitive and evolving environment it was necessary to take a hard look at some crucial matters concerning the role, the aims and the future of our Society's journal. The result was the decisions made by our Society and the Editorial Board of the journal three years ago.

We judged that the HJC needed to play a vital role in serving education and research, not only for Greek cardiologists but also for those in other countries in this region. Furthermore, we judged that our aims and policy could not be based on anything less than the extremely high quality that the times demand.

It was then that the English language edition was born.

The aims of the Editorial Board, in undertaking the strenuous effort of producing a double, Greek and English publication, are several and plain.

First, to provide the two thousand Greek cardiologists with high-quality original texts, some of which are written by world scientific authorities and translated into the Greek language.

At the same time, however, and perhaps more importantly, to enable our journal –and with it Greek cardiology– to reach a wider audience beyond the borders of Greece.

Today, the recipients of the English edition include more than five hundred cardiologists around the world, the European Society of Cardiology and its Working Groups, the American Heart Society, the American College of Cardiology, the national cardiology societies of Europe and the libraries of many institutions abroad.

The many cardiologists of Greek origin who work in the United States, Europe and Australia make up a separate, important group towards whom our journal is also aimed.

Finally, the English language edition is received by a significant number of cardiologists and institutions in the Balkan countries, thus promoting scientific collaboration in the region.

This has not been an easy job. However, it has turned out that we have powerful allies in the Greek research institutions, in scientists of Greek extraction who have distinguished themselves abroad, as well as eminent specialists, friends of our country, who understand our efforts and our aims.

The next few years will be crucial and challenging, but we shall persist in our efforts with vigour and determination. The wider acceptance of the HJC as a national journal with noteworthy international scientific participation will be our constant strategic goal.