

Editor's Page

The Red Queen's Race

PANOS E. VARDAS

Department of Cardiology, Heraklion University Hospital, Crete, Greece



*"A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"*¹

This issue marks the end of the first year in which the Hellenic Journal of Cardiology has been indexed in Medline. Using the US National Library of Medicine's Pubmed portal, medical and other researchers around the world access this international database of medical literature more than 2,000 times every day. To be included among the world-level medical journals that comprise such an invaluable resource is a great honour for our Journal and all who have contributed to this success deserve the thanks of the Greek cardiological community.

However, it would be a mistake to become complacent. The quote at the head of this article expresses a feeling that is probably familiar to most readers. Just to maintain a position of prominence is an unending struggle; to continue to move forward demands even more strenuous effort. To use a different metaphor, for our Journal to enter Medline is a big step up, but the step on which we now stand is not stationary. It is a step on an escalator that is moving steadily, if slowly, downwards. If we stay where we are, sooner or later we will find ourselves back where we started.

So what needs to be done. First and foremost, the Editorial Board must do everything possible to maintain the high level of scientific content that has characterised the Journal in recent years. But to do this, we will also need the support of our readers and contributors. With luck, the fact that a publication in the Helle-

nic Journal of Cardiology is now a Medline publication, appearing in the English language, will attract high-quality papers from both within Greece and abroad. In addition, the Journal's editorial consultants, reviewers and others involved in the process of content selection must make every effort to complete their work in a timely fashion, so that the Journal may be as up-to-date as possible.

It is also important that Greek cardiologists should be aware of the Journal's new status and should remind themselves to consider including relevant articles from the Hellenic Journal of Cardiology among their list of references whenever they are preparing research articles for submission, either to this Journal, or to other medical publications. By doing so, we may increase awareness of our Journal among the international cardiological readership and not only consolidate our position, but also gain new ground and satisfy even higher aspirations.

In the competitive arena of scientific publication, staying where you are takes effort: to make progress is even harder. However, I am optimistic that with the support of our colleagues we will eventually be able to win the Red Queen's race.

1. Dodgson CL (Lewis Carroll): *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*. 1871.