

Research in acute and chronic heart failure is busier than ever worldwide and demands more publishing space: introducing *ESC Heart Failure*, the sister journal of the *European Journal of Heart Failure*

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Does the world need more heart failure journals? Or maybe even more aptly, would the world of medicine and research be a better place, if there were more heart failure journals? We believe the answer to both questions is yes. Crucially, the board of the Heart Failure Association (HFA) of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) was supportive, as was the ESC Publication Committee, the ESC Board, and the publisher Wiley. As the editorial group being responsible for this new publishing project, we first of all want to thank the HFA and the ESC for their support, help, and trust in making this new journal—of which you now see the first issue—a reality.

ESC Heart Failure is one of three new open access journals of the ESC—the other two journals in the pipelines will focus on case reports (*ESC Case Reports*) and quality assessments in medicine and health economics (*EHJ: Clinical Outcomes & Quality of Care*). We have learned that publishers view journals as female, and hence, we view *ESC Heart Failure* as the sister journal of *European Journal of Heart Failure (EJHF)*, which is the HFA's flagship publication that is going from strength to strength under the leadership of Dirk van Veldhuisen and his team in Groningen. We have agreed with his team, as well as with the incoming Editor-in-Chief of *EJHF* (which as of 1 January of next year will be Marco Metra), that there will be a close co-operation between the journals to make *EJHF* even stronger and together to give heart failure research more publishing space under the wings of the HFA and ESC. To this end, articles rejected from *EJHF* will be offered consideration for additional review and a higher chance of publication in *ESC Heart Failure*. This process will be similar to the transfer process already established between *EHJ* and *EJHF*.

EJHF came out with its first issue in 2000, *Circ-HF* started in 2005, and *JACC-HF* was launched last year. Other heart failure-focused publications are and were *Heart Failure* (published between 1994 and 1997), *Congestive Heart Failure* (started in 2000), *Congestive Heart Failure Greenwich Conn* (started in 2002), *Heart Failure Clinics*, *Current Heart Failure Reports* and *Heart Failure Reviews* (all started in 2005), and *Acute Heart Failure* (published only in 2008) that as of today have together published 6539 items (www.scopus.com, accessed 6 July 2014). If we start a new heart failure-focused journal, what can we add that is not there? How can we be different? First of all, we are the first sister journal of an existing specialized heart failure journal. We want to serve authors for whom the heart failure community is the primary target audience.

Second and that is a technical and philosophical difference in approach, we are the first and only open access heart failure-focused journal title.

Open access comes in different flavours from green (unpaid) open access to gold (paid) open access, and there is the issue of author publication charges. For us, academic quality and ethical publishing are key issues and the highest priority. We will make you a journal offer that in the long run we hope you will be unable to refuse. Here is the 'deal': *ESC Heart Failure* will be a gold open access journal, and ESC and HFA members can take advantage of discounted publication fees. *ESC Heart Failure* will come out—which is most unusual for this type of journal—with four print issues per year that publish the best papers of the journal in print. This open access journal will physically exist with 200–300 print copies from Day 1. Articles will be published online when proof-ready, so we will be fast. By the rules of the National Institute of Health regarding PubMed, with this kind of journal, we will have the opportunity to be accepted into PubMed Central early in 2015.

Our publisher Wiley grants automatic (!) and complete waivers to authors from approximately 70 countries and a 50% discount to authors from another 45 countries (see details in the link provided¹). Furthermore, many universities in the UK, and some in Germany, Australia, and the USA but also the Austrian Science Fund, the Max Planck Society, and the Helmholtz Consortium from Germany, as well as the European Commission have set up pre-agreed open access fee payment accounts with Wiley (for the up-to-date list, see <http://olabout.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-420429.html>²) or have internal policies where the faculty pays as a rule all open access charges for its members (such as University Medicine Göttingen is doing). All these things are handled by the Wiley publishing team.

Importantly and in addition to the aforementioned, by Editors' choice, we can give out up to 20 free of charge publication spots—so please talk to us, if you feel that money is an issue.

We aim to be a home for clinical, translational, and basic science papers. We hope that our open content approach makes broad interaction and dissemination of knowledge possible. For instance, if you organize a heart failure research meeting and aim to publish all your abstracts of the meeting in our journal, please talk to us well in advance so that time lines can be arranged to fit your needs.

All this being said, *ESC Heart Failure* is a peer-reviewed international specialist journal. It is the aim of the editorial team of *ESC Heart Failure* to promote high academic standards, transparency, and ethical publishing. Therefore, all authors aiming to publish in *ESC Heart Failure* are requested to state in the article's cover letter that they

Table 1 Guidelines for publishing in *ESC Heart Failure*: key points

By submitting an article for publication to *ESC Heart Failure* in the cover letter, the corresponding author, on behalf of all co-authors,

- certifies that all authors listed on the manuscript have approved its submission and publication as provided to *ESC Heart Failure*;
- certifies that no person who has a right to be recognized as author has been omitted from the list of authors;
- certifies that each author has made an independent material contribution to the work submitted for publication;
- certifies that the submitted work is original and is neither under consideration elsewhere nor has it been published previously in whole or in part other than in abstract form;
- certifies that for all original studies have been approved by relevant bodies such as institutional review boards or ethics committees. This rule is not applicable for review articles or editorial comments that give reference to other people's work;
- certifies that all conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, which may affect the authors' ability to present data objectively, have been duly declared in the manuscript;
- understands that the manuscript in its published form will be maintained on the servers of *ESC Heart Failure* as a valid publication only as long as all statements in the guidelines on ethical publishing remain true;
- understands that if any of the aforementioned statements ceases to be true, the authors have a duty to notify the editors of *ESC Heart Failure* as soon as possible so that the manuscript can be withdrawn.

Comment: verbatim the same rules are also in effect for *Journal of Cachexia, Sarcopenia and Muscle*; see the work of von Haehling *et al.* [3].

have adhered to the journal's publishing guidelines (the key points of which are given in Table 1, with the full policies on the journal website), by stating 'The authors of this manuscript comply with the guidelines of publishing of *ESC Heart Failure* as stated on its website'. For the core of our policy, we have used the same set of rules for *Journal of Cachexia, Sarcopenia and Muscle*³ and have done so with success, we believe.

We have many ideas on how to make our new journal look and feel modern, interesting, and informative. Some of these ideas you can inspect in this first issue, and we hope that you will give us your feedback. Our email addresses are included on the first page. If you have additional requests or comments or complaints, and feel that we are not responding fast enough, also consider writing to Mrs Monika Diek who will be the editorial office manager for *ESC Heart Failure*; her email is eschf.editorialoffice@wiley.com.

We know that the journal has an uphill struggle ahead, and we are fully aware that there is no impact factor for the next 3–4 years, which has all sorts of implications. We want this publication project to succeed, and we want to work together with you to achieve that. We want to make you feel that you are contributing to a worthwhile and strong source of knowledge. We will not have much money for parties to promote the journal

like our friends can do, but we will visit their parties and meetings, if still invited. And we have cell phones that are turned on (in the case of the Editor-in-Chief as many know a pretty old one, but it works), and we read our

emails approximately 360 of 365 days. We promise that we will be fast and flexible.

And now, let us start working for *ESC Heart Failure*, the young sister of *EJHF*.

References

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