I am pleased to have the opportunity to update the status of *Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology* (*ATVB*). Our goals are to publish high-quality papers, provide authors with timely review and publication of their manuscripts, and to publish papers of interest to our readers. We will summarize data related to these goals and describe some changes and plans for the journal. Perhaps the most important goal is to alert readers that we are initiating New Investigator Awards.

**First Goal: Publish High-Quality Papers**

Impact factor is one measure of quality of papers, even though it is not a perfect metric. Impact factor may be important, in relation to selection of journals in which authors wish to publish their work.

The impact factor for *ATVB* again increased this past year, to 6.8 (Figure 1). The impact factor of the journal has increased more than 70% during the past few years. Impact factors of other journals in this area of research have not changed consistently during the last few years (Figure 1).

**Second Goal: Rapid Review and Publication**

We try to provide expert and rapid review of manuscripts that are submitted to *ATVB*. The average time from receipt of new manuscripts to notification of authors about the first decision has decreased substantially, from 6 weeks in 1999 to 3.2 weeks in 2004. Time from acceptance of manuscripts to publication has decreased from 22 weeks in 1999 to 5-10 days in 2004, because accepted manuscripts are published electronically (*ATVBeFirst*) before the print version.
Third Goal: Publish Papers of Interest to Our Readers

About half of manuscripts submitted to ATVB describe studies of atherosclerosis and/or lipoproteins. We believe that ATVB is the leading forum for papers in this area.

Vascular biology is a rapidly growing discipline, and we believe that we now provide a home for manuscripts in this area of research. The work of several Editors of ATVB, including Professors Takeshita, Hansson, Faraci, and Heistad, focuses on vascular biology.

Studies of thrombosis, and especially the interaction between blood and blood vessels, are an important part of the journal. A relatively small number of papers that relate to thrombosis are submitted to the Journal, and thus the number of papers published in the Thrombosis section is low. The acceptance rate for thrombosis papers is 18%, which is comparable to the overall acceptance rate of the Journal. We believe that authors of manuscripts related to thrombosis may wish to submit their work to ATVB, based on recent changes in impact factor.

Overseas Offices

Professor Goran Hansson is European Editor of the Journal. Professor Hansson also serves as Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine.

Professor Akira Takeshita is Asian Editor of ATVB. Professor Takeshita worked with AstraZeneca to obtain support for translation of ATVB into Japanese. The Japanese edition of ATVB is now available to 15,000 readers.

Continuing Initiatives

During the past few years, Letters to the Editor have evolved into two types of letters. First, some letters provide a lively exchange about papers that were published recently in the journal. Second, some letters describe original research findings. These letters are in essence short papers that describe findings that are either preliminary or narrower in scope than full-length original papers. These Letters undergo peer review.

Series of Brief Reviews, with Guest Editors, are published in the journal. The goal of these series, entitled ATVBinFocus, is to provide timely reviews of topics of special importance. Each paper in an ATVBinFocus Series has an electronic link with earlier papers in the Series. Several ATVBinFocus Series have been completed:

• ABC Transporters and Cholesterol Efflux
  Alan Tall, Guest Editor
• Lipoproteins
  James Scott, Guest Editor
• Smooth Muscle Cell: Developmental Emphasis
  Giulio Gabbiani, Guest Editor

Ongoing ATVBinFocus Series include:

• Extracellular Mediators in Atherosclerosis and Thrombosis
  Marschall Runge, Guest Editor
• Non-invasive assessment of Atherosclerosis: from structure to function
  William Haynes, Guest Editor
• Platelet Signal Transduction and Interactions with Vascular Cells
Skip Brass, Guest Editor
• **Endothelium**
  Frank Faraci, Guest Editor
• **Redox Mechanisms in Blood Vessels**
  Kathy Griendling, Guest Editor
• **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms**
  Robert Thompson, Guest Editor
• **Vascular Effects of Diabetes**
  Richard Cohen, Guest Editor

### Survey of Readers and Authors

The AHA, with our Publisher, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, surveyed subscribers and authors of *ATVB* in 2004. Overall, 89% of readers indicated that they are satisfied or completely satisfied with *ATVB*.

Among authors, in comparison with other journals, 86% and 88% indicated that the quality and speed (respectively) of reviews by *ATVB* is the same or better.

We are pleased that our readers and authors have indicated that the Journal is doing well.

### New Investigator Awards

Beginning in 2005, three new investigators will be honored each year for their outstanding papers in *ATVB*. The first authors of one original paper each year in each section of the journal (Vascular Biology, Atherosclerosis/Lipoproteins, and Thrombosis) will be honored. Goals of the awards are to recognize outstanding work by new investigators, and to encourage investigators to send their best work to *ATVB*. Each recipient of the award will receive a plaque and a check for $2500, funded by Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

The first author must be an Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or a more junior rank, at the time of submission of the manuscript. Awards will be based primarily on the quality of the paper that is published. To be considered, a paper must be published in 2005. Awards are also planned for subsequent years.

### Conclusion

We thank Dr. Grundy and the International Atherosclerosis Society for allowing us to provide an update for *ATVB*. This summary is published in full [1]. We wish to emphasize especially the New Investigator Awards. We hope that these awards will provide encouragement for new investigators and a boost for their career.
References


Legend to Figure

Figure 1. Impact factor of ATVB, JBC (Journal of Biological Chemistry), T& H (Thrombosis & Haemostatis), JLR (Journal of Lipid Research), Athero (Atherosclerosis), and AJP (American Journal of Physiology – Heart and Circulation)