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Editorial

A new journal is born

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The last 30 years have witnessed unprecedented advances in scientific knowledge across a range of disciplines. Many of these have impacted profoundly on the practice of modern medicine, and the trend is likely to continue and gain momentum, particularly in the post-genomic era and with the advent of personalized medicine.

Another important area of growth is global medicine, with the realization that only a small minority, less than 20%, of the world's population benefits from new discoveries. This situation is not only unacceptable but also unsustainable, and can only be addressed by developing a network of centers of research excellence dedicated to highlighting local problems and to building local knowledge, best practice and capacity, whilst increasing global efforts for the benefit of all.

These issues have stimulated the development of both the Aswan Heart Centre and the QAL Advanced Cardiovascular Network. They are also a prime motivator behind the AHC Science and Practice Series meetings, each of which focuses on a specific area of cardiovascular clinical and research advances.

This journal, which bears the same name, will publicize work presented at these international meetings and aims to share and disseminate knowledge, state of the art practice and latest developments in the chosen fields to the widest possible audience. We also hope it will become a platform for the global medical research community to share additional material in the form of original work, timely reviews and case studies. The *AHC Science and Practice Series* journal is fully open access.

The editorial board is well aware that it is "not journals that make papers, but papers that make journals". We are highly encouraged by the range and quality of submissions for publication in this, our first edition. The long-term future of this nascent publication however depends on the medical scientific community as a whole actively sharing our vision of improving access to knowledge and best practice for all and continuing to disseminate their latest work and findings via this organ.

We sincerely hope you will agree to join us and support us on this journey. We also hope that you will find this new journal an informative and enjoyable read and a valuable contribution to disseminating advances in the fast moving field of cardiology.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sir Magdi Yacoub is the Founder and Chairman of QAL Advanced Cardiovascular Network. He holds the position of Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College and also founder and Director of Research at the Harefield Heart Science Centre (Magdi Yacoub Institute).

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