One of the distinctive features of *Circulation Research* is the rapidity of its review process. Under our editorship (since July 2009), the average time from submission to first decision for all manuscripts received in our office has been less than 14 days, despite our policy of recruiting three referees for all papers that undergo full review.

To further accelerate publication of findings with potentially high impact, we have introduced the new article category of Brief UltraRapid Communications (BURCs), which debuts in this issue of the journal with the report by Tijsen et al.1 This manuscript was received on February 4, 2010, and published online on February 25, 2010; thus, the time from submission to online publication was 21 days—a timeline that is entirely consistent with what we envisioned when we designed this new article category.

BURCs constitute the fastest avenue to publication that is currently available to cardiovascular investigators. Authors can expect their accepted articles to be published in less than 4 weeks from submission. We will render an editorial decision within 7 calendar days of submission. The decision will be dichotomous (ie, either accept [as is or with minor revisions] or reject). If the paper is accepted without revisions, it will be published online ahead of print within 7 to 14 days of acceptance (ie, within 14 to 21 days of submission); if a revision is needed, authors will have 5 days to resubmit, and thus, the paper will be published online (ahead of print) within 19 to 26 days of submission.2 BURCs will also be published in the print version; print publication will be available, on average, 24 days after acceptance. We are fully committed to honoring these promises.

BURCs are a vehicle for presenting findings that have a relatively narrow scope but are novel, scientifically rigorous, and of potentially high interest to our readers. They are limited to 2500 words (excluding Methods) and 4 display items. Papers not accepted as BURCs may be resubmitted as Regular Articles, provided that they have been extensively revised and expanded with the addition of substantial new data. The purpose and features of BURCs have recently been described in detail in our editorial manifesto.2

We hope readers will find BURCs to be a useful addition to our portfolio of articles.

References
Another Addition to Our Article Portfolio: Announcing Brief UltraRapid Communications
Roberto Bolli and the Editors

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