The editors of Circulation Research are pleased to introduce a new feature, called Compendium, which is a collection of articles with a strong thematic focus on specific cardiovascular diseases or pathological conditions. Compendia will be published as a special section of the journal. Each Compendium will consist of a series of comprehensive reviews that will cover the topic in its entirety. This issue contains our first Compendium focused on Aortic Valve Disease, edited by Donald Heistad and Linda Demer. A Compendium on Heart Failure, edited by Eugene Braunwald, will be published later this year, followed by one on Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, edited by Evangelos Michelakis, in early 2014, with additional series to follow.

The rationale for developing Compendia is that although Circulation Research publishes invited Reviews, this format offers little opportunity to discuss epidemiological or clinical aspects that are relevant to several basic science fields. Therapeutic implications are often relegated to concluding paragraphs and important clinical concepts and needs driving the research are often glossed over or cross-referenced to other sources. Therefore, a highly visible forum is needed to bring together the authority and thoroughness of a textbook and the vision and the perspective of an expertly written Review article to discuss the major issues related to specific disease conditions, how these issues are being addressed in the laboratory and in the clinic, important questions remain unanswered, and which pressing issues need urgent attention.

Compendia will generally consist of 4 to 6 articles, starting with an introductory article describing clinical, epidemiological, or etiological aspects of a specific disease or pathological condition. This will be followed by articles discussing the basic features of the disease: the organ-level processes and systemic dysfunctions that contribute to disease manifestation and the cellular and molecular mechanism that underlie disease initiation and progression. The last series of articles, or the last article, will discuss the preventive and therapeutic approaches that work and those that do not, the major limitations of current medical care, and the pharmacological and nonpharmacological approaches that may improve patient management. In adding Compendia to our portfolio, our goal is to facilitate cross-disciplinary approaches to prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease and to enhance translation of basic science discovery from bench to bedside. We view the Compendium as a one-stop shop for basic, translational, and clinical investigators who wish to gather a comprehensive assessment of a problem. Accordingly, we hope that Compendia will provide a valuable resource not only to experts and investigators in the field, but also to nontraditional readers of the journal, such as physicians, cardiology fellows, residents, and medical students. This feature signals our deep interest in highlighting translational cardiovascular science and in supporting initiatives that promote a better understanding and management of human cardiovascular diseases. We will strive for each Compendium to be a landmark publication in the area with a lasting impact on the field.