The world of research can be tough—often cold at best, brutal at worst. Even for talented investigators, rewards and recognitions are frequently outnumbered by frustrations and difficulties. When I became editor in 2009, one of my objectives (stated in the editorial manifesto\(^1\)) was to make Circulation Research a forum, where hard work, talent, and accomplishments by cardiovascular investigators are recognized, highlighted, and celebrated—something that, sadly, seldom takes place in scientific journals (or other venues). So, we started out in 2010 with the Profiles in Cardiovascular Science, which highlight senior, influential scientists with a lifetime track record of exceptional accomplishments. Next, in 2013, we introduced New Leaders in Cardiovascular Science, a series that features established investigators in the midstage of their careers who have emerged as undisputed leaders in their respective fields. Starting with this issue,\(^2\) we are now inaugurating the third and last phase of this project by launching Promising Young Investigators, a new column that will focus on young talent—researchers who are in the early stage of their careers (generally 5–15 years from their terminal degree, currently at the Assistant or early Associate Professor level) and have already distinguished themselves.

Articles published in the Promising Young Investigators category will highlight outstanding early-career scientists who are on an unmistakably upward trajectory that promises to continue, so that one day they may become leaders in their field. Because of the limited track record, it is possible that some of these individuals may not live up to their promise. Nevertheless, this is a risk worth taking because encouraging young investigators is of the utmost importance. As in the previous 2 categories, Promising Young Investigators will be written in the format of an interview that will focus on the personal aspects of the investigators rather than on their research. Topics for discussion will be things that are not easily found anywhere else in the scientific literature, questions such as What drives these people? How did they overcome difficulties? Why did they choose their career path? Which habits underlie their success? How do they handle frustrations? What advice do they have for others? What do they consider to be the major impediments to investigators in this phase of their career? And so on.

The focus of Promising Young Investigators on scholars in the early stage of their scientific voyage is yet another manifestation of the steadfast commitment of both Circulation Research and the American Heart Association to supporting this crucial segment of the cardiovascular scientific community, which represents our future. It is my hope that in addition to providing further motivation and encouragement to the honorees, articles published in the Promising Young Investigators category will also inspire trainees and beginning investigators who contemplate a career in cardiovascular research.

Disclosures

None.

References


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From the Institute of Molecular Cardiology, University of Louisville, KY.

Correspondence to Roberto Bolli, Institute of Molecular Cardiology, University of Louisville, ACB Third Floor, 550 S, Jackson St, Louisville, KY 40202 (Circ Res. 2016;119:1161. DOI: 10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.116.310158.)

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