Circulation Research—1976

I AM HONORED by the opportunity to serve as the editor of Circulation Research and I look forward to the excitement of working with the Associate Editor and Editorial Board toward the attainment of a common goal. This is the identification of manuscripts which present new ideas about the function and control of the cardiovascular system in health and disease and thus stimulate the conduct of definitive experiments; manuscripts which, by rigorous and yet imaginative interpretation of experimental data, provide solutions to important problems and resolve differences in our understanding; manuscripts which refresh our memory of what is known and show us what needs to be known in a field of ever-increasing breadth and complexity.

Under its first Editor, Carl Wigger, Circulation Research quickly became our major source of definitive reports describing original and important studies on the cardiovascular system. Each of the succeeding editors maintained his high standards while adapting editorial policy to meet the changing needs of the investigator and reader. In this way the character of the journal has been modified in response to the multidisciplinary nature of much current research that bears directly or indirectly on the normal and abnormal function of the cardiovascular system.

Most recently, under Robert Berne, two new features, Brief Reviews and Letters to the Editors, were added. Also, the journal began to publish reports of studies in fields that were somewhat more diverse than those considered appropriate by Dr. Wiggers. This change quite reasonably reflected the ever-increasing scope of our understanding of the factors that influence the circulation. In spite of the appearance of new journals devoted to a single field of investigation, and despite periodic shifts in research emphasis, he presented a balanced and representative picture of the best studies on the cardiovascular and renal systems. I hope to be able to maintain this policy so that the journal will not be dominated by reports of studies in any one field even though the majority of submitted manuscripts may describe work in that field.

The excellence of the journal depends primarily on the quality of the manuscripts submitted for publication and the wisdom, perceptiveness, and knowledge of the members of the Editorial Board and the many Consultant Editors who contribute to the review process. I have every confidence that we will continue to receive many fine manuscripts and that our referees will be able to identify among them the reports most deserving of publication in the journal. If, or when, we err, I hope that it will result from publication of a less than perfect paper and not from the exclusion of an important discovery. If we appear to favor disproportionately some fields or some types of investigation, I have confidence that our readers and contributors will not hesitate to comment and offer their criticisms. Continuing help of this sort always will be welcome and always is essential.

Although I do not plan any significant change in content or purpose for the coming year, there will be obvious changes in the physical appearance of the journal. The Publications Committee has decided to modify the size of the type and the arrangement of the articles and make other changes designed to reduce costs and increase the effectiveness of our use of the space. The Committee's decisions were made only after careful deliberation and are expected to enable us to publish the same number of manuscripts as in prior years without significantly diminishing the attractiveness of the journal. I hope that these changes may be acceptable to our contributors and readers and, again, will welcome their comments and suggestions.

In conclusion, I wish you success in your research. That success will advance our understanding and permit the journal to continue to serve you.

B. F. Hoffman, M.D., Editor
Serum dopamine beta-hydroxylase as an index of sympathetic nervous system activity in man.

R H Noth and P J Mulrow

doi: 10.1161/01.RES.38.1.1

_Circulation Research_ is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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Print ISSN: 0009-7330. Online ISSN: 1524-4371

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circres.ahajournals.org/content/38/1/1

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