

EDITORS' PAGE



## JACC Serving the Global Cardiovascular Community



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What does it mean to be a global cardiovascular journal? We personally believe it means listening to our international readers and authors to better serve their needs. Any journal can claim a “global” presence; however, we believe that we have an obligation to interact and engage with our global cardiovascular colleagues to ensure we are best serving their needs.

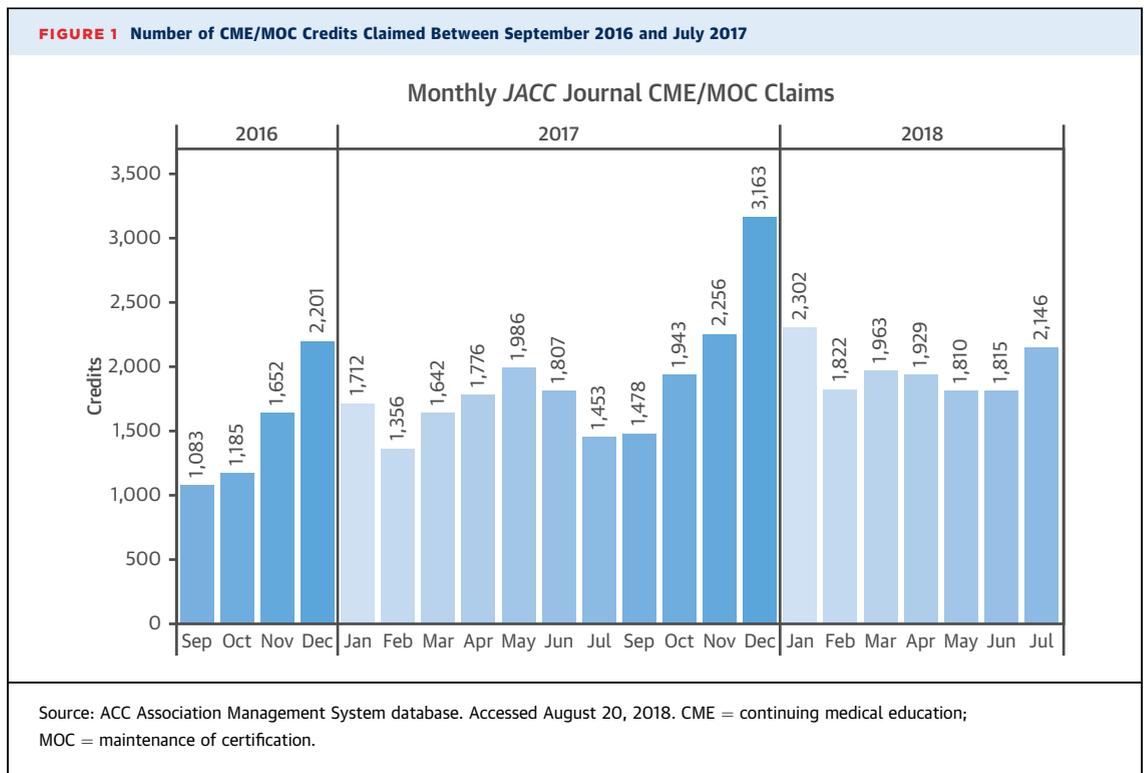
With this charge in mind, approximately 2 years ago, we brought on a team of 8 International Advisors—2 from Asia, 2 from South America, and 4 from Europe. We meet monthly and discuss ways in which the *JACC* journals can best serve their respective communities. From this group, discussions arose about developing a presence and community, which have resulted in in-person presentations, as well as live, web-streamed events about publishing to the younger clinical and research cardiovascular communities in the United Kingdom, Brazil, and France. In addition, based on their recommendations, we launched the *JACC* International Section, wherein we host 2 manuscript types. First, we have begun publishing review papers that will examine cardiovascular disease in varying regions of the world (1). Second, we have started producing short human-interest papers highlighting international cardiovascular experts or specific institutions that are undertaking innovative endeavors (2).

Additionally, this year, we started publishing translated editions of the *Journal*, with the support of our publishing partner, Elsevier. To support our global readership, we now publish 3 international *JACC* editions in Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese on a bimonthly basis. Each edition includes translated *JACC* manuscripts with the most relevance to these local communities, as well as original solicited papers by regional cardiovascular clinicians. The editors-in-chief for these editions are Han Ya-Ling,

MD, PhD, for the Chinese-language issues; Edimar Bocchi, MD, PhD, for the Portuguese-language issues; and Antonio Bayés de Luna, MD, for the Spanish-language issues.

Finally, medical journals are now being challenged to educate our readers in a variety of ways, including through ongoing continuing medical education (CME) and maintenance of certification (MOC) activities. Through *JACC*'s CME/MOC efforts, American College of Cardiology (ACC) members who practice either general cardiology or a specific subspecialty of cardiology can keep up with developments in their fields. All 6 *JACC* journals feature regular credit opportunities on a monthly or bimonthly basis. In collaboration with the manuscript authors, designated CME editors for each journal are responsible for developing these free educational activities, which are posted on the websites of the *JACC* journals. In September 2016, MOC credit was added to the *JACC* journals' CME offerings because of the American Board of Internal Medicine's decision to allow MOC Part II credit to be given simultaneously with certain qualifying types of CME activities. To date, ACC members can earn >80 free CME/MOC credits per year. In most states, a total of 25 CME credits per year are all that is required for medical licensure renewal, while the American Board of Internal Medicine requires 100 credits for each 5-year period as part of its Part II requirements. The early success of this dual-offering program has been previously reported (3). Already, >40,400 dual CME/MOC have been claimed by *JACC* journal readers, with this number only expected to grow (Figure 1).

Also, in keeping with our focus on our international readers, clinicians can now also earn up to 78 European Continuing Medical Education (ECME) credits each year by completing online activities for



select papers from *JACC* and specialty *JACC* journals. Two ECME credits are offered per month at no charge upon successful completion of related self-assessment questions for each paper. Paper selections align with the *JACC* and the *JACC* specialty journals' certified dual CME/MOC activities, which are carefully chosen to enrich the readers' educational experience with the view of transforming patient care and improving heart health. The credits are offered through an agreement between the U.S. Accreditation Council for CME and the European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology, which allows for mutual recognition of substantial equivalency of accreditation systems. This new feature is expected to be of very high value to European cardiologists.

The *JACC* journals and the ACC take the responsibility to provide lifelong learning for members quite seriously (4). Indeed, all of the *JACC* journal efforts and nearly one-third of the ACC's total resources are dedicated to educational activities, many of which are free benefits of membership. The *JACC* journals' editors and the ACC are committed to building on these educational

resources and helping members honor their commitment to lifelong learning and to "maintaining the medical knowledge...necessary for the provision of quality care" for years to come. Finding new, innovative ways to leverage technology and ensure cardiovascular professionals have the information and educational resources necessary to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health are what is expected and are what will be delivered. The *JACC* journals and the ACC are delighted to now be able to assist global cardiologists in a very concrete way to fulfill this most important of professional responsibilities.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT** We wish to express our gratitude to John Lucy, of the ACC's Education Division Department, for providing the *JACC* journal CME/MOC claims data in a graphical format.

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