The open access Mechanical Circulatory Support: a new forum for the rapidly expanding field of cardiopulmonary support devices

The field of mechanical circulatory support is evolving at a rapid rate. The advances parallel the tremendous growth in the volume of scholarly communications and in the efforts taking place to support a more rapid and open communication of scientific results. With the open access publication model, online content is freely available immediately upon publication everywhere, to everyone, and with free access to readers. This, combined with online tools to support rapid peer review and quicker productions times, represents a significant step forward in the way in which science is advanced.

An open access, all-electronic forum, Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) aims to be a critical niche in the rapidly expanding field of circulatory assist devices. There are already a variety of publications that support the field of Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs) and extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). We will differentiate ourselves by not only taking advantage of the open access model of publication to get information disseminated as quickly and as efficiently as possible but also, more importantly, by focusing on the clinical and bedside aspects of mechanical circulatory support and the problems that patients and their healthcare teams encounter in these unique and complex interactions between humans and machines. A journal dedicated solely to this field will hopefully represent a significant step forward in which healthcare providers of all specialties can communicate and learn about the constantly evolving challenges of this progressive, innovative, and demanding field.

Another significant advantage of an all-electronic format is that we are no longer bound by the page limits and publication guidelines of conventional print media. That is, the success and limitations of the journal are bound only by our availability of ideas, imagination, and manuscripts.

As clinicians, we realize the challenges of these very infirmed patients and the potential rewards that are obtainable by returning them back to their friends, families, lives, and society. Our field has come a long way since the days of Gibbon and the development of extra-corporeal circulation and the trials and tribulations of the ongoing search for the Holy Grail of our field – successful mechanical cardiac replacement. We all know the field of mechanical circulatory support is evolving quickly. It is the goal of Mechanical Circulatory Support to document that growth.

Please accept our open invitation to participate – be it submission of papers, review of manuscripts, critique, and comment on published topics; and in general – join our open exchange of data, knowledge, and experience.

Michael S. Firstenberg, Chief Editor
David Feldman, Co-Editor
Benjamin Sun, Co-Editor