

EDITOR'S PAGE



A Decade With Editorial Mentors

The Day They Dropped the Mic

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This July marks an important transition in the JACC journals family. It is with a degree of sadness that the 10-year terms of Spencer King and Jagat Narula have come to an end after launching their highly successful sister journals, *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions* and *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging* in 2007. Spencer and Jagat had remarkable success as editors of these first sister journals of the JACC family. Their first issues followed 6 months later starting with 6 issues a year. *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions* initially had a 22% acceptance rate and 230 new research papers. In 2017, the journal was publishing 24 issues a year, 1,200 new research papers, and 2,300 total papers at a 10% acceptance rate. The increase from the first impact factor of 5.86 to finish at 7.63 was a remarkable course of events over a 10-year period. *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions* quickly became the premier interventional cardiology journal and was guided by one of the most respected interventional cardiologists in the world. Most important was the mentorship that Spencer provided to not only myself but many other editors and associate editors. His calm, common-sense and Southern gentleman approach to running the journal proved to be highly effective. A rejection letter from Spencer King was rarely contested, and viewed as a thank you note. Personally, there were many times that I asked for his advice about handling different types of issues and all of the challenges that editors face, including editorial emergencies. *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions* is in excellent hands with Dr. David Moliterno, who was the senior associate editor for many years and is now at the helm of the journal, but the steady and senior advice that Spencer could provide has been invaluable. He truly leaves behind a King's legacy. Fortunately, we still know where to find Spencer in times of need.

Drs. Narula, O'Connor, and King



JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging was on a parallel path. *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging* followed the same meteoric rise in success from 6 issues and 299 new research papers in year 1 with a 19% acceptance rate to, at the close of 10 years, 12 issues a year, 1,000 new research papers, and 1,500 total papers with a 9% acceptance rate, taking the impact factor from 4.67 to 7.85. Jagat's innovative and thoughtful approach to running the journal provided mentorship from a different angle. Jagat was on top of analytics and thoughtful innovative ideas and was always willing to provide opinion based on a long history of experience in the complicated issues that editors face, and as with *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions*, *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging* has handed over the editorship to a highly successful and competent associate editor, Dr. Yellapragada Chandrashekar

(Dr. Chandra). We are happy to hear that Dr. Narula will be helping us out with our Imaging in Heart Failure papers!

We recently had the opportunity to hear a keynote address by Former President Bill Clinton, focused on diversity and the importance of group culture. Our experience in the *JACC* journals has truly embodied this message. Whereas we all have our individual identities and diverse backgrounds, the group as a whole has been strong due to our ability to share ideas, best practices, experiences, and knowledge.

I know that I will be able to reach Spencer and Jagat with their speed dial numbers handy in my iPhone for any editorial emergencies that may arise. They have

imparted in me much knowledge on running a journal: the culture, the innovation, the thoughtfulness, and the details, and for this, I am forever thankful. As I look around the *JACC* family now, I am the senior member of the sister journal team, and I hope to continue to pass on what I have learned from them to my great colleagues in the *JACC* journals family. They have done a tremendous job, and it is their turn to drop the mic.

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