

The official launch of AsiaIntervention

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Congratulations to the Asia-Pacific interventional cardiology community

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AsiaIntervention, a new journal dedicated to the field of cardiovascular intervention with particular emphasis on scientific contributions from the Asia-Pacific region, is officially launched with this inaugural issue. The Asia-Pacific interventional cardiology community ought to be congratulated for this achievement.

Alongside its formidable economic development, the Asia-Pacific region, which accounts for over 60% of the world population, has experienced the most rapid expansion in interventional cardiology worldwide. This new era for the region has witnessed an ever growing number of percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI), and the introduction in many Asian countries of transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and novel technologies, such as a mitral clip and parachute device to isolate the malfunctioning portion of the left ventricle in ischaemic heart disease, among others.

Take China for example. After the first percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) was performed in 1985, its adoption was very slow during the first 10 years with only 11,735 cases treated in 110 hospitals by the year 2000. However, the last decade has witnessed an exponential growth in the number of PCI cases: in 2013, for instance, a total of 454,505 procedures were performed in more than 1,000 hospitals. Expansion of the PCI case-load also fuelled research and development of, for instance, new drug-eluting stents, including fully bioabsorbable ones, and TAVR devices. To this end, the pre-marketing clinical trial of a Chinese manufactured polymer bioabsorbable sirolimus-eluting stent is ongoing, while patient enrolment has been completed in a trial on a Chinese manufactured self-expandable TAVR device.

The expansion in interventional cardiology is also reflected in the many high-quality papers originating from the Asia-Pacific region which have been published in world-renowned

journals. Expanded clinical practice has also promoted academic exchanges and educational programmes. There are currently many high-level academic conferences in the Asia region, such as AsiaPCR/SingLive, TCTAP, CCT, IndiaLive and CIT. These meetings play an important role in promoting scientific exchanges through lectures, oral presentations of late-breaking trials and live demonstrations. Obviously, this body of knowledge needs to be captured in the more enduring medium of the written word. Although there are quite a number of journals in the Asia-Pacific region, either in native languages or in English, none is dedicated to publishing work in the interventional cardiology field primarily originating from within our Asia-Pacific region. This is why we launched AsiaIntervention as a journal dedicated specifically to the region.

Credit is due to Professor Patrick Serruys, the Editor-in-Chief of EuroIntervention, for the idea of launching this new journal. Professor Serruys will be Senior Consulting Editor to the Chief Editors. He will be assisted by Dr Christoph Naber. The Editorial Office of EuroIntervention will help to manage administrative affairs in the initial stage. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Serruys, Dr Naber, Mr Paul Cummins, Ms Sylvie Lhoste and all the staff from EuroIntervention. It is my conviction that, with their strong support and guidance, AsiaIntervention will quickly flourish.

I would like to invite colleagues from the Asia-Pacific region as well as from other parts of the world to submit to AsiaIntervention high-quality research and educational work in the field of percutaneous and surgical cardiovascular interventions. Let us come together to make this journal a great success and to help it quickly develop from a newborn to an adult, measuring up to and exceeding the best.

A new journal is with us: AsiaIntervention

Upendra Kaul, MD

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A new journal, AsiaIntervention, is with us. Is it yet another journal for interventional cardiologists of the region or does it add some additional value over the existing forums?

The Asian region has peculiarities in cardiovascular diseases and the risk factors associated with these, such as diffuse vascular disease and small vessels with earlier onset of presentation. This is often associated with a very high prevalence of diabetes mellitus and dysmetabolic syndrome, making interventional treatment challenging in several situations. Valvular heart disease with rheumatic heart disease involving younger patients as well as the burden of degenerative valve disease in the elderly which is increasingly seen, pose a dual challenge at both ends of the spectrum. Special mention should be made of aortoarteritis, a unique problem of this region rarely seen in industrialised countries in Europe and the American continent.

Uneven distribution of healthcare delivery systems in some highly populated countries such as India, China, Indonesia, etc., requires innovative methods of delivering cost-effective therapies. These then need to be proven for their efficacy and safety and reported in the scientific literature. The region also has countries like Japan and Korea which have excelled in treatment strategies in focused areas of coronary artery disease, giving the world a lead in PCI of chronic total occlusions and left main disease.

There are all sufficient reasons – among others – for starting a journal with a focus on Asia, and for this new journal to become a forum perfectly complementary with EuroIntervention, which is, itself, gaining recognition and popularity at a rapid pace. I am very optimistic that it will in time become a widely quoted and read journal of interventional cardiologists of the region.

Greetings for the launch of AsiaIntervention

Takeshi Kimura, MD

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I am very pleased and honoured to be one of the Editors-in-Chief of the new journal AsiaIntervention. It is really remarkable to see the marked increase in the number of scientific articles in the international cardiology journals from Asian countries. Also, the recent contributions of Asian cardiologists to international cardiology meetings, such as ACC, AHA, ESC, EuroPCR, and TCT, are unprecedented. Global trials in cardiovascular medicine are of course very important, and we should actively participate in these trials. At the same time, we should have clinical studies dedicated to Asian patients, because the risks for thrombosis and bleeding

of Asian patients might be different from those of European and American patients. The new journal AsiaIntervention will be a relevant journal in which to publish cardiovascular studies dedicated to Asian patients, and to discuss the optimal treatment strategies for Asian patients. Many young cardiologists in Asia are highly motivated to publish original articles. We would particularly welcome submissions from young Asian investigators in interventional cardiology and related fields. Finally, we appreciate the kind support for AsiaIntervention from the Consulting Editors, P.W. Serruys and C. Naber.

AsiaIntervention: the beginning of a new future

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Today, interventional cardiology, which encompasses coronary intervention, peripheral vascular intervention, structural heart disease and congenital heart disease, has realised tremendous growth in a considerable number of Asian countries. An incredible number of Asian colleagues, institutes, and countries have participated in major international scientific evaluations and meetings, and have contributed to worldwide dissemination of the latest developments in interventional cardiology. Along with this increase in our participation, a premier journal focusing on the large and growing

field of interventional cardiology in Asia has long been needed. At this most appropriate time, I am proud to introduce the launch of AsiaIntervention which I believe will fill this important unmet need and provide the greater interventional Asian community with a reliable source of high-quality articles in the field. As long as the members of the Asian-Pacific Society of Cardiology join forces to work together, AsiaIntervention will definitely grow into a global indexed journal in the near future. The window of opportunity is finally wide open to us all, so let us all enjoy the beginning of our new future.