



The 8-Year Journey With the *Circulation Journal* – 2008~2016 –

Hiroaki Shimokawa, MD, PhD

In 2008, I succeeded Dr Masunori Matsuzaki (2000–2008) as the 15th Editor-in-Chief of the *Circulation Journal*, the official journal of the Japanese Circulation Society (JCS).¹ Since then, I have done my best to improve the academic level of the Journal. On the completion of the 8-year term as the Editor-in-Chief, I express my sincere thanks to all the members of my editorial team, including the associate editors (both domestic and overseas), executive editors, statistical consulting editors, editorial board members, international advisory board members, and the JCS editorial office staff (Table). I also thank all the authors who submitted their manuscript for publication in the Journal and all the reviewers who reviewed the manuscripts for the Journal.

For the 8 years from 2008 to 2015, my team received a total of 10,938 manuscripts from all over the world (Figure 1) and finally published 2,761 of them in the 96 issues of the monthly journal (average acceptance rate of original manuscripts was 25.2%). During this time, I have made every effort to improve the academic level of the Journal as follows.

Table. Editorial Team of the *Circulation Journal* (2008–2016)

Editor-in-Chief: Hiroaki Shimokawa

Associate Editors:

Takashi Akasaka, Kazutaka Aonuma, Hiroyuki Daida, Kimikazu Hamano, Hiroshi Inoue, Hiroyasu Iso, Hiroshi Ito, Masaaki Ito, Michio Kawasuji, Kazuo Kimura, Takeshi Kimura, Masafumi Kitakaze, Issei Komuro, Isao Kubota, Masahiko Kurabayashi, Tohru Masuyama, Toyoaki Murohara, Ryozo Nagai, Koichi Node, Hisao Ogawa, Tetsunori Saikawa, Tsutomu Saji, Ryuzo Sakata, Kazuyuki Shimada, Kazuaki Shimamoto, Nagara Tamaki, Hiroyuki Tsutsui, Makiko Ueda, Masakazu Yamagishi, Takeshi Yamashita, Kenji Hamaoka, Naoyuki Hasebe, Jitsuo Higaki, Ken-ichi Hirata, Atsushi Hirayama, Kimihiro Komori, Minoru Ono, Keiji Saku, Yasuchika Takeishi, Hitoshi Yokoyama, Shigeki Morita, Yutaka Otsuji, Yoshihiko Saito, Satoshi Yasuda, Yujiro Asada, Yasuki Kihara, Takanari Kitazono, Isao Shiraishi

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Executive Editors: Satoshi Yasuda, Yoshihiro Fukumoto, Yasuhiko Sakata

Statistical Consulting Editors: Takeshi Morimoto, Satoshi Miyata

Editorial Board:

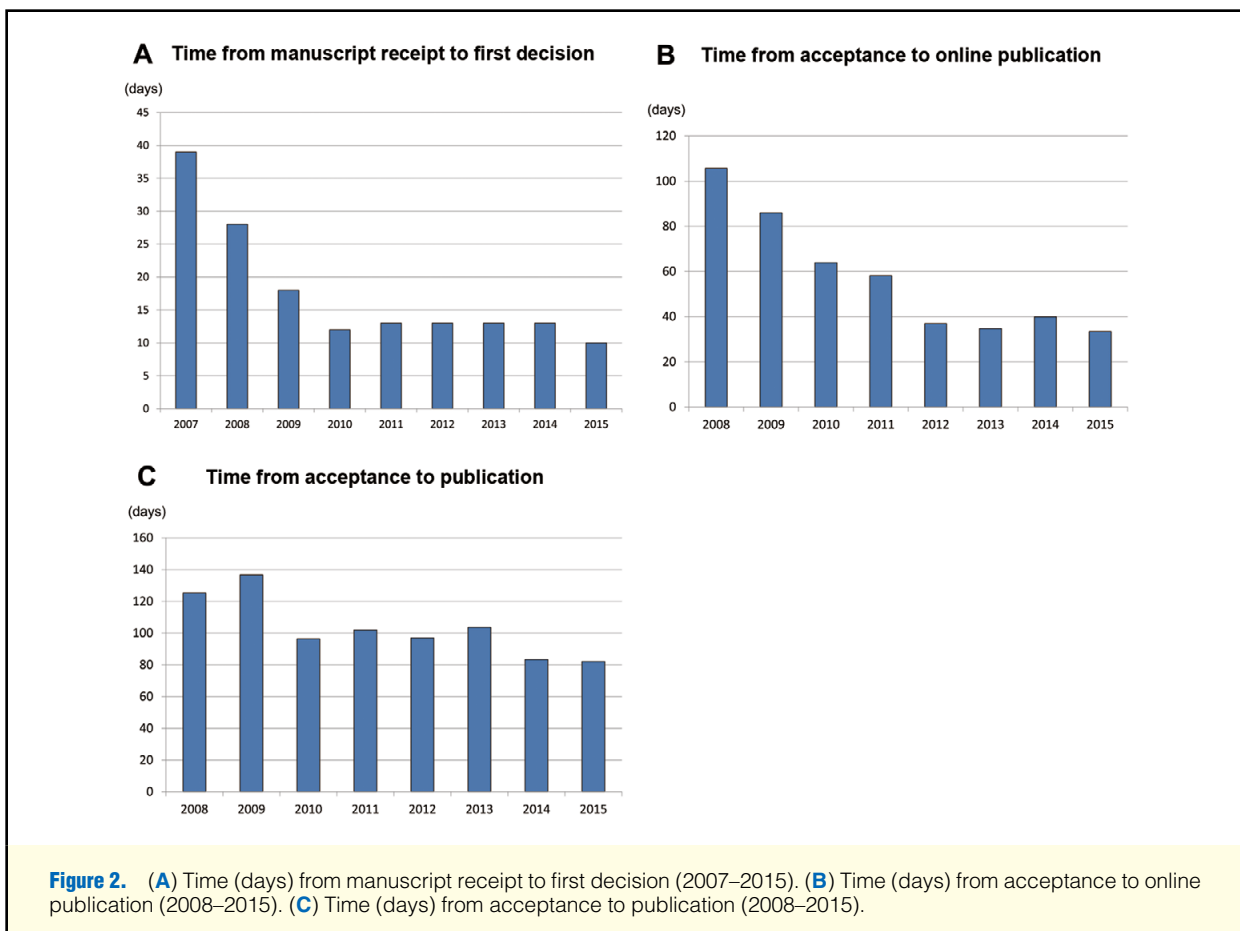
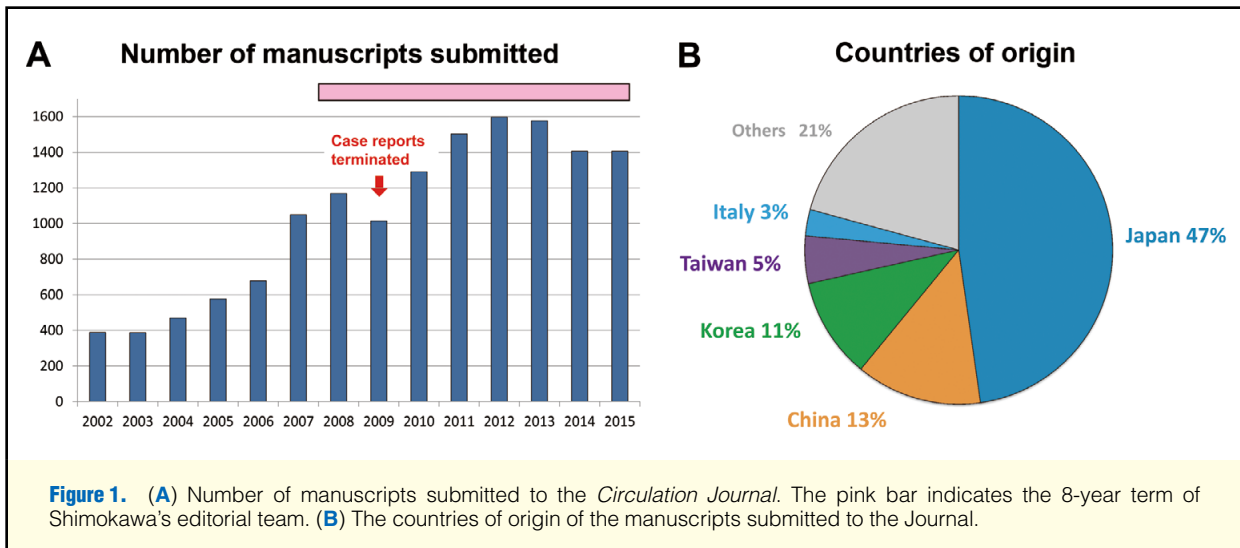
Yoshifusa Aizawa, Keiko Amano, Yoshinori Doi, Satoshi Fujii, Masatoshi Fujita, Toshiro Fujita, Keichi Fukuda, Yoichi Goto, Nobuhisa Hagiwara, Naoyuki Hasebe, Hideharu Hayashi, Jitsuo Higaki, Kenichi Hirata, Atsushi Hirayama, Takafumi Hiro, Junko Hone, Masatsugu Hori, Minoru Horie, Yoshito Iesaka, Yuji Ikari, Hisao Ikeda, Uichi Ikeda, Tsutomu Imaizumi, Mitsuki Isobe, Takaaki Isshiki, Hiroshi Ito, Takayuki Ito, Kouji Kajinami, Kazuomi Kario, Masatoshi Kawana, Seinosuke Kawashima, Yasuki Kihara, Shohei Kim-Mitsuyama, Toru Kita, Kazuo Kitamura, Itsuo Kodama, Masashi Komeda, Kimihiro Komori, Kiyotaka Kugiyama, Hiroaki Matsubara, Akira Matsumori, Shinya Minatoguchi, Tetsuji Miura, Takashi Miyauchi, Shunichi Miyazaki, Kyoichi Mizuno, Shin-ichi Momomura, Ryuichi Morishita, Motoyuki Nakamura, Toshio Nakanishi, Kazuwa Nakao, Shigeyuki Nishimura, Masanori Nomura, Hiroshi Nonogi, Shunichi Ogawa, Yasuyoshi Ohuchi, Ken Okumura, Yutaka Otsuji, Yoshihiko Saito, Keiji Saku, Masataka Sata, Yoshihiko Seino, Kenji Sunagawa, Yasuchika Takeishi, Keiko Takihara, Chuwa Tei, Hitonobu Tomoike, Masato Tsutsui, Satoshi Umemura, Toyotaka Yada, Nobuhiro Yamada, Akira Yamashina, Junichi Yamazaki, Masafumi Yano, Hitoshi Yokoyama, Mitsuhiko Yokoyama, Kiyoshi Yoshida, Tsutomu Yoshikawa, Michihiro Yoshimura, Minoru Yoshiyama, Tohru Asai, Yoshihiro Fukumoto, Shinya Goto, Kimikazu Hamano, Ichiro Hisatome, Teruo Inoue, Toru Izumi, Masakazu Kohno, Isao Kubota, Koji Maemura, Shigeki Morita, Yusuke Ohya, Yukio Ozaki, Tsutomu Saji, Yoshiki Sawa, Nobuyuki Shiba, Kazuyuki Shimada, Kazuaki Shimamoto, Kazuaki Tanabe, Makiko Ueda, Kazuhiro Yamamoto, Shizuya Yamashita, Hideaki Yoshino, Satoshi Yasuda, Tetsuya Amano, Hirotugu Atarashi, Fukiko Ichida, Nobukazu Ishizaka, Michio Kawasuji, Yoshio Kobayashi, Yoshihiro Morino, Ichiro Shiojima, Ryohei Yozu, Tohru Minamino, Mitsuru Ohishi, Wataru Shimizu, Hiroshi Tada, Takeshi Adachi, Yoshihiro J. Akashi, Junya Ako, Takanori Ikeda, Yasushi Sakata, Isao Shiraishi, Isao Taguchi

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Editorial Office:

Yuka Nakamura, Uika Hosomichi, Hiroko Shibuya, Yachiyo Takahashi, Ranka Higuchi, Mayumi Abe, Chiaki Asai, Yoshiko Hirabaru



1. Improve the Scientific Level of the Journal

With the great help from the associate editors, the reviewers and the printing office (the Kawakita Printing Co), the time from manuscript receipt to first decision was markedly shortened from 39 days in 2007 to 10 days in 2015 (Figure 2A), and the time from acceptance to online publication from 105 days in 2008 to 34 days in 2015 (Figure 2B), and the time from acceptance to publication from 125 days in 2008 to 82 days in 2015 (Figure 2C). All the published

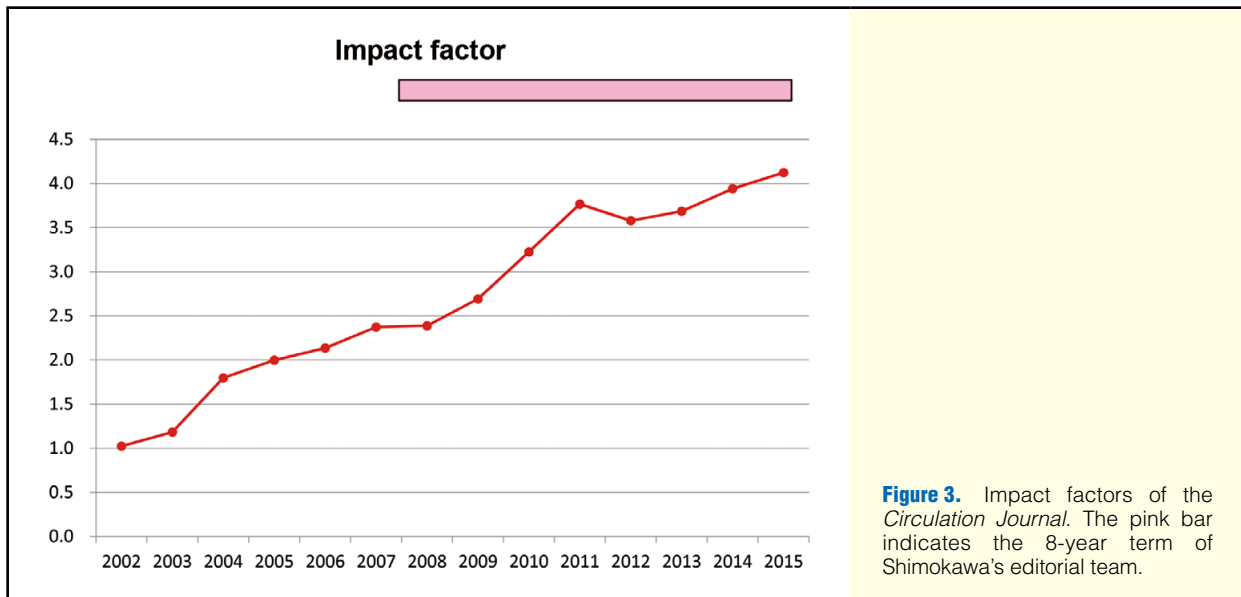


Figure 3. Impact factors of the *Circulation Journal*. The pink bar indicates the 8-year term of Shimokawa's editorial team.

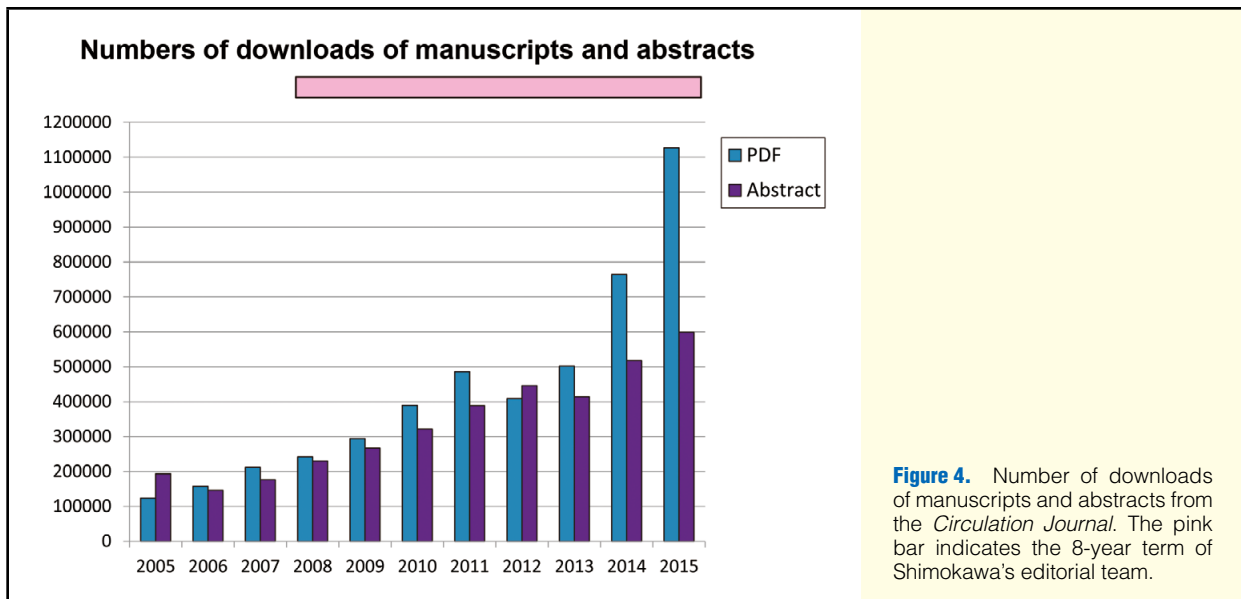
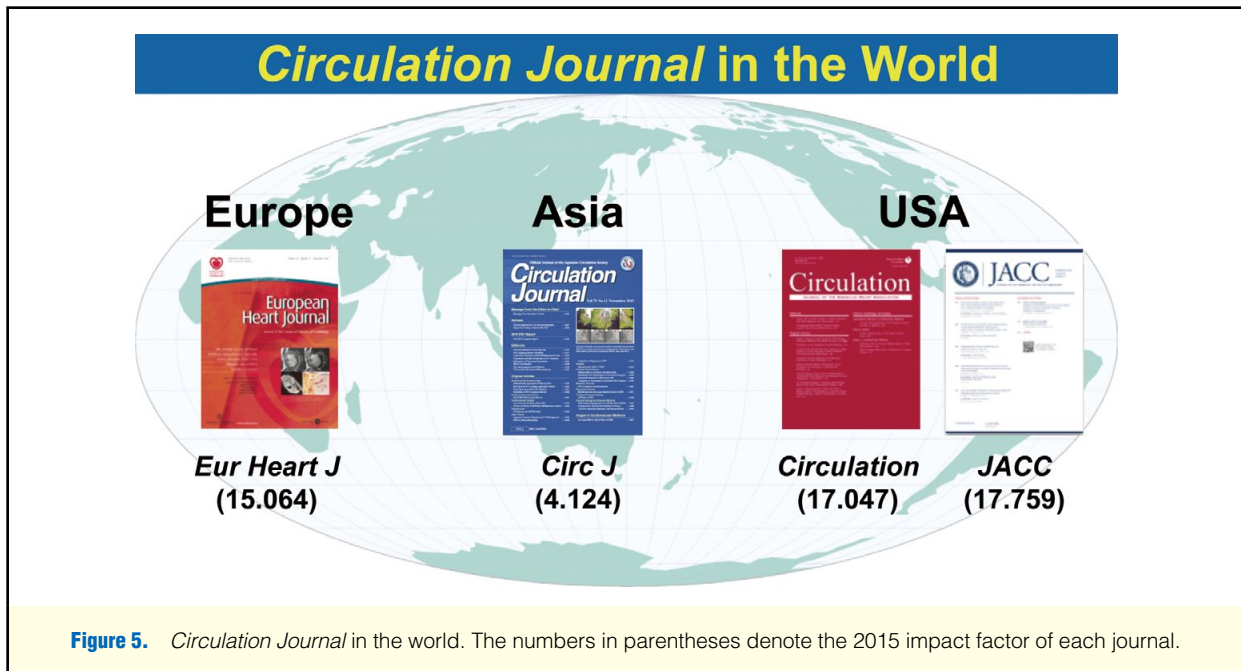


Figure 4. Number of downloads of manuscripts and abstracts from the *Circulation Journal*. The pink bar indicates the 8-year term of Shimokawa's editorial team.

papers were easily downloaded free through J-Stage, which is operated by the Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST), supported by the Japanese government. I believe that we can be proud of the current fast review system with primary review of 10 days. In addition, in the past 8 years, a total of 363 review articles were published written by 353 renowned and next-generation scientists. I also started the editorial comments section, where a total of 572 editorials were published in the past 8 years. Furthermore, in order to appreciate the authors of high-quality papers and the reviewers with high review performance, I started the *Circulation Journal* Award² and the Best Reviewers Awards,³ respectively.

2. Improve the Internationalization of the Journal

In addition to collaborations with the international associate editors and the international advisory board members on my editorial team, I started the monthly mail magazine service to approximately 6,000 foreign scientists and an annual international editorial board meeting during the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association (AHA).⁴ Furthermore, the JCS organizes an exhibition booth during the annual scientific meetings of the AHA and the European



Society of Cardiology (ESC), where information on the *Circulation Journal* is provided to attendees. In addition to the *Circulation Journal* Award, I also started the Asian Award, which recognizes Asian scientists who publish a high-quality paper.

3. Improve the Visibility of the Journal

After I became the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, I changed the printing system with the help of the Kawakita Printing Co to full and free colorization, which has enhanced the appearance of the Journal. I also started the monthly mail magazine to 26,000 JCS members to inform them of the contents of the issue of the month.

4. Improve the Ranking of the *Circulation Journal* in the World

As a result of all the efforts by the editorial team, the impact factor of the Journal has been steadily improving and reached to **4.124** in 2015 (**Figure 3**). The official ranking also places the *Circulation Journal* 31st among the 124 journals in the Cardiac and Cardiovascular Systems category in 2015 JCR Science Edition. Indeed, the *Circulation Journal* is one of the top journals in Asia and the top journal among the 1,808 journals registered in J-Stage in Japan. The numbers of download of manuscripts and abstracts from the Journal have also been rapidly increasing (**Figure 4**).

I sincerely hope that the academic level of the *Circulation Journal* will continue to improve as the leading cardiovascular journal in the Asian region (**Figure 5**).

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