

Making an Impact: A New Research Prize for Heart, Lung and Circulation



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In 2016, as part of *Heart, Lung and Circulation's* 25th anniversary review, the Journal's Editor-in-Chief and Section Editors' Board announced their intention to award an annual prize for the best original research article published in the previous calendar year [1]. As stated at the time, the award will recognise a current achievement, aiming to motivate future achievements, not only for the award winners but for all who contribute to *Heart, Lung and Circulation*.

This prize, now named HLC's *High Impact Award*, was judged for the first time in 2017, and announced at the recent Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) Annual Scientific Meeting in August, held in Perth, Western Australia. All original research papers published in a print edition of HLC in its 25th anniversary year of 2016 were eligible for the award. Judging aimed to identify the "most successful" original research paper of that year, as assessed by three objective criteria. These criteria have previously been identified as representing the kind of paper Journal editors would seek to publish [2], and relate to:

1. Presenting the best science, represented by impact factor;
2. Educating the targeted readership, represented by interest; and,
3. Framing contemporary issues, represented by on-line attention [3].

Tables 1–3 show the top five papers published in a print edition in 2016 in each of these categories, as measured by Scopus citations (impact), the absolute number of article downloads (interest), and Altmetric score (on-line attention), respectively.

Australia is the dominant country of origin among the top five papers in all three categories, however New Zealand, Italy and China, including Hong Kong, are also represented. Research designs include predominantly meta-analyses [4,8,11,12], and retrospective observational (including data-

base) studies [5,13,14], but also a prospective community-based study [6], a population-based cohort study [10], a randomised trial [7], and a cost-benefit analysis [9].

One original article placed in first position for all three criteria, with 10 citations, 2786 downloads and an Altmetric score of 41 at time of judging [4], notwithstanding limitations such as the different periods of time since on-line publication, the different periods of data availability for each criterion, and differences in access for papers — that is, whether freely available or not, and if freely available, for how long. This original article, *High Intensity Interval versus Moderate Intensity Continuous Training in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease: A Meta-analysis of Physiological and Clinical Parameters* analysed data from 10 studies with a total of 472 patients. The findings were that high intensity interval training improved patients' mean aerobic exercise capacity more than moderate intensity continuous training, although moderate intensity continuous training was associated with a greater decline in patients' resting heart rate and body weight [4].

Accordingly, this original article has been named the winner of HLC's inaugural *High Impact Award* (2017), and HLC congratulates all co-authors of this article — Kevin Liou, Suyen Ho, Jennifer Fildes and Sze-Yuan Ooi — on their publication of HLC's most successful original research article in 2016. In recognition, the article will be made freely available, by the Journal's publisher, for one year — that is, until succeeded by HLC's most successful original research article of 2017, to be announced at CSANZ's Annual Scientific Meeting in 2018. In time, these prize-winning papers may join the list of HLC's most successful articles of all time [15].

Heart, Lung and Circulation's new *High Impact Award* complements HLC's existing *Best Review Prize*, now in its third year having been awarded for the first time in 2015. To "recap", for those readers unfamiliar with HLC's *Best Review Prize*, it is an early career publication award given to the

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Table 1 Original Research published in *Heart, Lung and Circulation*, Volume 25: Impact by Citations*

Rank	First author	Country of Origin	Title	Reference	Citations
1	Liou ⁴	Australia	High Intensity Interval versus Moderate Intensity Continuous Training in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease: A Meta-analysis of Physiological and Clinical Parameters	2016; 25:166-74. (on-line July 2015)	10
2	Wang ⁵	New Zealand	Relationships between Anticoagulation, Risk Scores and Adverse Outcomes in Dialysis Patients with Atrial Fibrillation	2016; 25:243-49. (on-line Sept 2015)	9
3	Chan ⁶	Australia	Plasma Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin Kexin Type 9 as a Predictor of Carotid Atherosclerosis in Asymptomatic Adults	2016; 25:520-25. (on-line Nov 2015)	7
4	Wang ⁷	China	Effects of Combination Ezetimibe and Rosuvastatin on Coronary Artery Plaque in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease	2016; 25:459-65. (on-line Nov 2015)	5
5	Sze ⁸	Australia	Cardiac Troponin and its Relationship to Cardiovascular Outcomes in Community Populations — A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	2016; 25:217-228. (on-line Oct 2015)	5

*Scopus, to 1 July 2017.

eligible first author of any review article published in a print edition of HLC in the previous calendar year. Reviews can be narrative in type or systematic reviews with or without meta-analysis. The prize is intended to encourage submissions to the Journal from up-and-coming contributors to cardiovascular research and clinical practice. More details about this prize (which carries a monetary award of A\$1000) are posted on the Journal's website at www.heartlungcirc.org.

For 2017, HLC's Best Review Prize was awarded to Dr Julie Sze for the review titled *Cardiac Troponin and its Relationship to Cardiovascular Outcomes in Community Populations — a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis* [8]. This paper reported the analysis of data from 21 prospective studies involving 64,855 participants, finding that an "elevated" cardiac troponin measurement (that is, exceeding the 99th percentile value of a healthy reference population) in asymptomatic individuals in the community is associated with a tripling of risk of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality.

As for the *High Impact Award*, judging of the *Best Review Prize* takes citations and downloads into account; however, other measures such as peer reviewer comments, quality of writing, and the expert opinion of a panel of HLC Section Editors are also taken into consideration. Formal statistical advice is also sought to ensure appropriate study design and

analysis: this year, two invited judges with specific statistical expertise both independently rated Sze et al.'s paper as a clear leader among several worthy finalists.

Previously, the *Best Review Prize 2016* was awarded to Dr Kevin Phan, the first author of a multi-authored systematic review and meta-analysis of transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) in patients with bicuspid aortic valve stenosis that was published in print in HLC in 2015 [16]. The inaugural Best Review Prize in 2015 was shared equally by Dr Adam Lee and Dr Anil Pandit, for a narrative review on aspects of novel oral anticoagulant use [17], and a meta-analysis of stroke data from randomised trials involving Amplatzer Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) occluder devices [18], respectively.

Heart, Lung and Circulation is also pleased to support the Geoff Mews Memorial Prize, previously known as the Australian and New Zealand Endovascular Therapies Meeting (ANZET) Fellows' Prize. This Prize is awarded for the best case presentation by a Fellow at the annual ANZET meeting. The Prize was renamed in honour of Geoffrey (Geoff) Mews; Mews (1948-2015) was a Perth-based pioneer of interventional cardiology in Australasia, and an inspirational teacher and mentor to many current leaders in the field. The three 2017 Geoff Mews Memorial Prize finalists' abstracts are now

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