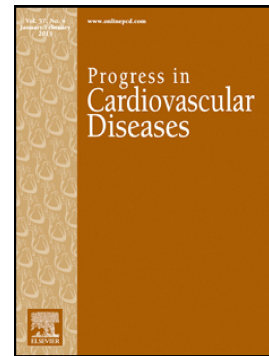


## Accepted Manuscript

Special Editor's Page: The Fluctuating Journal Statistics

Carl J. Lavie



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**Special Editor's Page: The Fluctuating Journal Statistics**

When I took over as Editor -in-Chief (EIC) of Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases (PCVD) in January, 2014, and actually started preparing the 2014 issues in early 2013, our Impact Factor (IF) was 2.4 for two consecutive years, and I had not yet even heard of the Elsevier Cite Score (ECS). As I have reviewed previously,<sup>1-4</sup> our IF has increased from 2.4 to 4.635, to 8.177 in 3 years, which was a miraculous and almost “too good to be true “ increase. The PCVD IF ranking last year was 9<sup>th</sup> of 130 cardiovascular (CV) journals. Additionally, our ECS last year was 5.96, which ranked PCVD as 5<sup>th</sup> of 330 CV-related journals, ahead of many very top-ranked journals in our field.

Recently, the new statistics have been released. For the 2017 IF, I have been saying that this was expected to decline considerably, as the really terrific PCVD obesity and CV diseases issue from January/February 2014 would no longer be counting, at least for the 2-year IF. Although I anticipated a dramatic decline, as our 2016 papers have not been cited nearly as frequently as were many of the 2014 ones, the decline was considerably less than I expected, currently being 6.754, placing us 14<sup>th</sup> of 128 CV journals (Table 1).

Since the ECS counts 3 years of papers (2014, 2015, and 2016 cited in 2017) and counts all items (the IF only counts the original research ones and reviews, whereas the ECS also counts all editorials/commentaries, viewpoints, and even letters), the highly cited 2014 papers count for the current ECS for one last time. Therefore, the 2017 ECS for PCVD increased substantially from 5.96 to 6.44, placing PCVD as 6<sup>th</sup> of 327 CV-related journals (Table 2).

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