Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the *Circulation Journal*, I am pleased to announce the editorial statistics for 2018, and the recipients of the Best Reviewers Awards for 2018.

1. Editorial statistics for 2018

As shown in Figure 1, we received 1,395 manuscripts in 2018, for publication in the Journal, including 1,046 original papers (924 clinical and 122 experimental), 16 invited review articles, 65 invited editorials, 47 rapid communications, and 5 letters to the editor.

![Figure 1: The details of manuscripts submitted in 2018.](image1)

![Figure 2: Countries submitting manuscripts in 2018.](image2)

![Figure 3: The total number of submissions for the last 10 years.](image3)
communications, and 173 images in cardiovascular medicine. Approximately half were submitted from Japan, followed by China, Korea, Taiwan, and USA (Figure 2). For the last 10 years, the number of submissions has been steadily increasing even after we terminated publication of case reports in October 2008 (Figure 3). The abovementioned 5 countries have remained the top 5 countries in terms of paper submissions over that period (Figure 4). The acceptance rate for original manuscripts in 2018 was approximately 25.1%.

2. Best Reviewers Awards for 2018

In 2018, a total of 920 reviewers kindly reviewed the manuscripts submitted. In appreciation of their valuable contributions, we have selected the 20 Best Reviewers of the Year 2018 as follows:

**Hideki Ishii, MD**  
(Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Aichi)  
Number of reviews: 21  
RPS: 128.0  

**Osamu Tsukamoto, MD**  
(Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka)  
Number of reviews: 21  
RPS: 123.0  

**Hiroshi Asanuma, MD**  
(Meiji University of Integrative Medicine, Kyoto)  
Number of reviews: 18  
RPS: 115.0  

**Shin Ito, MD**  
(National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Osaka)  
Number of reviews: 17  
RPS: 112.0  
Previous awards: 2017

**Eitaro Kodani, MD**  
(Nippon Medical School Tama-Nagayama Hospital, Tokyo)  
Number of reviews: 11  
RPS: 82.0  
Previous awards: 2017

**Naohiko Takahashi, MD**  
(Oita University Faculty of Medicine, Oita)  
Number of reviews: 15  
RPS: 79.3  

**Akiomi Yoshihisa, MD**  
(Fukushima Medical University, Fukushima)  
Number of reviews: 13  
RPS: 79.2

**Takahiro Okumura, MD**  
(Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Aichi)  
Number of reviews: 13  
RPS: 76.0

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**Figure 4.** The number of submissions for the last 10 years in top 5 countries. Asia (All): all Asian countries except Japan.
**Editorial Statistics and Best Reviewers Award for 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Number of Reviews</th>
<th>RPS</th>
<th>Previous Awards</th>
<th>Number of Reviews</th>
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<th>Previous Awards</th>
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*The Reviewer Performance Score (RPS) is determined as follows for reviewers who made at least 6 reviews in 2018 (review time limit, 14 days):

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\text{RPS} = [(\text{Number of reviews completed within 1 week}) \times 2 + (\text{number of reviews completed within 2 weeks}) \times 1 + (\text{number of reviews completed within 3 weeks}) \times 0.2] \times \text{quality of review (average)} - (\text{number of declined reviews}) + (\text{number of editorial comments published in the Journal}) \times 10.
\]

The review quality of reviewers was evaluated for each manuscript by an Associate Editor who was in charge of the manuscript (range: 1~3) and the average score used.

The above Reviewers will be awarded by the Japanese Circulation Society with a Certificate of Achievement and an honorarium.

In the year ahead in 2019, we expect a steady increase in the number of submissions, as well as an increase in the scientific impact of the Journal.

Toyoaki Murohara, MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief
Circulation Journal