January 2022 marks the 19th year of the *Heart Rhythm Journal* (HRJ) and the third year of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Dr John Gallagher, a pioneer in cardiac electrophysiology, died of COVID-19 on November 21, 2020. According to his wife Jane, Dr Gallagher continued to take care of patients during the pandemic. I wish to salute all our colleagues who risk themselves to care for their patients during this difficult time.

HRJ had an unusually busy year during the start of the pandemic, with 2075 total submissions in 2020, including 1344 original clinical and 172 original experimental manuscripts. The record-breaking number of submissions led to a reduced and unprecedented 13% acceptance rate of clinical submissions. In 2021, submissions continued to be robust but were closer to normal levels. The time to first decision remains low: 9.1 days for all manuscripts and 11.7 days for original clinical/experimental articles. Total citations to the journal reached a historical high of more than 16,200, the highest among arrhythmia-focused journals (Figure 1). Full-text downloads exceeded 1 million for the first time in 2020, with a total of approximately 1.2 million. The Elsevier CiteScore for HRJ is 10, and the journal ranks 20 of 317 in the Cardiology and Cardiovascular Medicine category and 11 of 98 in Physiology (medical). The Google Scholar h5-index for HRJ is 70, ranking 12 of all cardiology journals. The HRJ impact factor increased in 2020 to 6.343, up from 5.731 in 2019, 5.225 in 2018, and 4.743 in 2017.

In addition to HRJ, the Heart Rhythm Society publishes 3 gold open access journals: *Heart Rhythm O2*, *HeartRhythm Case Reports*, and *Cardiovascular Digital Health Journal*. As a hybrid journal, HRJ offers authors the option of paying for open access, and an increasing number of authors are choosing this option.

HRJ recently started publishing Research Letters. This new category is in part inspired by a Letter to the Editor submitted by Greenberg et al titled “Lifesaving therapy inhibition by phones containing magnets” (PMID 33418126). That brief but novel observation has attracted significant public interest as evidenced by a total of more than 67,000 full-text downloads. However, the article did not fit within the existing Letter category, as it included a figure essential to the story. The new Research Letter category allows authors to submit highly focused studies that can be completely described with 800 words plus a single figure or table. Research Letters are peer reviewed and listed in PubMed.

In 2021, Dr Edward Schloss stepped down as Social Media Editor; we appreciate his efforts on behalf of the journal. We are fortunate to welcome Dr Jason Andrade from Vancouver General Hospital as our new Social Media Editor.

I want to thank Dr Douglas P. Zipes and Mrs M. Joan Zipes for sponsoring the Publication of the Year Award. The journal is blessed by the outstanding service provided by Lori Monteleone, Brianna Gallagher, Kristin D. Murray, and Jeremy Rosenberg. Finally, I want to acknowledge the associate editors, section editors, editorial board members, and reviewers for providing an efficient yet comprehensive peer review of the extraordinary number of manuscripts submitted.

![Figure 1](https://example.com/image.png)  
**Figure 1** Total citations to *Heart Rhythm* (red) compared with 7 other arrhythmia-focused journals. Ordinate scale: thousands of citations. Data from scopus.com. *The 2021 number is incomplete.*

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