

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

### I. Aim and Scope:

*Circulation Journal* is an official open-access scientific journal of the Japanese Circulation Society. Articles deal with either clinical or experimental investigation of the cardiovascular systems. The journal will consider various types of original research articles, including studies conducted with human subjects and experimental models, as well as high-quality applied clinical, epidemiological, and healthcare policy papers related to cardiovascular diseases. Specific content areas of interest are: arrhythmia and electrophysiology, cardiovascular surgery, congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease, epidemiology, exercise, genetics and translational biology, health services and outcomes research, heart failure, hypertension, imaging, pediatric cardiology, pericardial disease, peripheral vascular disease, resuscitation science, stroke, transplantation, valvular heart disease, vascular medicine. The journal will also consider the publication of review articles summarizing the present state of knowledge in a particular field. Manuscripts with study design alone cannot be accepted for publication. All manuscripts are peer-reviewed. The types of manuscripts the journal publishes are listed in **VII. Manuscript Types**.

### II. Editorial Policy:

#### 1. General:

The journal supports and adheres to industry guidelines, including “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals” (ICMJE Recommendations) (<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>) by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and the “Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing” (<https://doaj.org/apply/transparency/>), a joint statement by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), and the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA).

#### 2. Clinical Trials:

In accordance with the Clinical Trial Registration Statement from the ICMJE (<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/publishing-and-editorial-issues/clinical-trial-registration.html>), all clinical trials published in *Circulation Journal* should be registered in a public trials registry before the first participant recruitment. In accordance with ICMJE, acceptable registries are: Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR) (<https://www.anzctr.org.au/>), ClinicalTrials.gov (<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>), ISRCTN registry (<https://www.isrctn.com/>), UMIN Clinical Trials Registry (UMIN-CTR) (<https://www.umin.ac.jp/ctr/index/htm/>), Netherlands Trial Register ([www.trialregister.nl](http://www.trialregister.nl)), and European Union Drug Regulating Authorities Clinical Trials Database (EudraCT) (<https://eudract.ema.europa.eu/>).

#### 3. Reporting Guidelines:

Authors are encouraged to follow published reporting guidelines for different study designs and complete their checklist prior to submission. Manuscripts of observational studies should conform to the “Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology” statement (STROBE statement) (<https://www.strobe-statement.org/>). Reports of randomized controlled trials should comply with the “Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials” statement (CONSORT statement) (<http://www.consort-statement.org/>). Systematic reviews and meta-analyses should follow PRISMA (<http://prisma-statement.org/>). Studies of diagnostic accuracy are encouraged to conform to STARD ([www.stard-statement.org/](http://www.stard-statement.org/)).

#### 4. Data Sharing:

In accordance with ICMJE, manuscripts submitted to *Circulation Journal* that report the results of clinical trials must contain a

data sharing statement in the “Data Availability” section of the main document file, indicating all of the following:

- (1) Whether individual deidentified participant data (including data dictionaries) will be shared (“undecided” is not an acceptable answer)
- (2) What data in particular will be shared
- (3) Whether additional, related documents will be available (e.g., study protocol, statistical analysis plan, etc.)
- (4) When the data will become available and for how long
- (5) By what access criteria the data will be shared (including with whom)
- (6) For what types of analyses, and by what mechanism the data will be available

*Examples:*

## **Data Availability**

- ✓ The deidentified participant data is accessible. (The information regarding (2) – (6) should follow.)
- ✓ The deidentified participant data will be shared on a request basis. Please directly contact the corresponding author to request data sharing. (The information regarding (2) – (6) should follow.)
- ✓ The deidentified participant data will not be shared. (When this option is selected, the information regarding (2) – (6) is not required.)

## **5. Research Ethics:**

- (1) When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the “Declaration of Helsinki” and the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional). Manuscripts may be rejected if the Editor-in-Chief considers that the research has not been carried out within an appropriate ethical framework. Written informed consent must be obtained from the patient (or parent or legal guardian) and should be indicated in the manuscript. Any information or data that may identify patients must not appear anywhere in the manuscript, including the main text, tables, figures and supplementary files. Appropriate written consent must be obtained when any personal information and/or images of patients or other individuals, including but not limited to the patient’s name, specific date and time, patient ID, and photo etc., need to be included in the manuscript.
- (2) A statement detailing the institutional review board (IRB), including the name of the ethics committee and the reference number, must be included in the title page of the manuscript. If a study has been granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should be detailed in the manuscript, including the name of the ethics committee that granted the exemption.
- (3) When reporting experiments on animals, indicate whether institutional or national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.

## **6. Redundant or Duplicate Publication:**

- (1) **Exclusive Submission:** Submission of a manuscript to *Circulation Journal* implies that the article is original and that no portion (including figures and tables) is under consideration elsewhere.
- (2) **Duplicate Submission:** *Circulation Journal* regards publication of a manuscript that overlaps substantially with another paper already published as a duplicate publication. Submission of a manuscript to *Circulation Journal* implies that the article is original and that no portion (including figures and tables) has been previously published in any form other than as an abstract. Previous publication includes publishing as a component of symposia, proceedings, transactions, books (or chapters), and articles published by invitation or reports of any kind, as well as in electronic databases of a public nature. Data presented as an oral presentation slide, poster or printed abstract at a scientific meeting or as an abstract on the web does not conflict with manuscript submission to the journal, provided that is referred to in the cover letter accompanying the manuscript. Manuscripts with data that has ever appeared on a preprint server are not acceptable in *Circulation Journal*.
- (3) **Plagiarism:** The journal uses “Crossref Similarity Check” to scan a manuscript for plagiarism. If this returns any doubtful results, the Editor-in-Chief re-reviews the manuscript and may conduct further investigations.

## 7. Conflicts of Interest:

When submitting a manuscript for publication, all authors are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest (COIs) (within the past 36 months) with a biotechnology manufacturer, a pharmaceutical company or any other commercial entity that has been involved in the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. All declared COIs will appear in the published article. The submitting author should complete the COI Disclosure form in the submission system and have the same information included in “Disclosures” on the title page. If there are no COIs, the authors should state, “The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest”. The matters required to be disclosed are as follows, but not necessarily limited to:

- (1) **Consultancy**; Annual income from a single company or organization, as an officer or consultant, which exceeds an annual total of 1,000,000 yen
- (2) **Stock/Stock Options**; Profit from stocks of one single company or organization which exceeds an annual total of 1,000,000 yen, or 5% or more of total shares of one company/organization
- (3) **Patent royalties/licensing fees**; Patent royalties/licensing fees which exceeds an annual total of 1,000,000 yen from a single company or organization
- (4) **Remuneration** (e.g. lecture fees); Remuneration for attending meetings (presentations), paid for the time and effort of the activity, which exceeds an annual total of 500,000 yen, per company or organization
- (5) **Manuscript fees**; Manuscript fees for writing of a leaflet etc. , which exceeds an annual total of 500,000 yen per company or organization annually from one commercial entity
- (6) **Research funding**; Research funds (trust research funds, joint research funds etc.) provided by a single company or organization which exceeds an annual total of 1,000,000 yen
- (7) **Scholarship funds or Donations**; Scholarship funds granted by a single company or organization which exceeds an annual amount of 1,000,000 yen to the affiliated department or field from one single company or organization
- (8) **Endowed departments by commercial entities**; (If the individuals disclosing COI is affiliated with an endowed department sponsored by a company or organization)
- (9) **Travel expenses, gifts, and others, which are unrelated to research**; Travel expenses, gifts and other contributions which exceed an annual total of 50,000 yen from one single company or organization
- (10) **Any other institutional or personal relationships**

*Examples:*

### **Disclosures**

A (author name) serves as a consultant to Z (entity name); B’s spouse is chairman of Y; C received a research grant from X; D received lecture fees from V; E holds a patent on U; F has been reimbursed by T for attending several conferences; G received honoraria for writing promotional material for S; H is a member of *Circulation Journal*’ Editorial Team. J has no conflict of interest.

**Funding:**

Research funds provided by a non-profit organization or government must be indicated in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript.

JCS has decided to follow recommendations of the World Medical Association and arrangements under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), and JCS journals will not publish research papers submitted or funded by tobacco companies (including subsidiaries) and tobacco research organizations such as the Smoking Research Foundation, in Japan and overseas.

**Editors and Editorial Staff as Authors:**

When a member of *Circulation Journal*’s editorial team (<https://www.j-circ.or.jp/english/cj/editorial-board/>) or its Editorial Office is included in the author list, it must be stated in “Disclosures” on the title page. They are excluded from any involvement

in the editorial decision process.

## **8. Misconduct:**

*Circulation Journal* considers the following as scientific misconduct, but is not necessarily limited to these:

- (1) **Duplicate Publication:** Publication of a paper that overlaps substantially with one already published.
- (2) **Salami Publishing:** Distinct form of duplicate publication that is usually characterized by dividing hypothesis, methodology or results of a single research into a multiple manuscripts.
- (3) **Fabrication of Data:** Reporting invented data or research findings intended to give a false impression.
- (4) **Falsification:** Manipulating research materials, equipment or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
- (5) **Purposeful Failure to Disclose Conflicts of Interest:** Knowingly and willfully not disclosing the necessary COI in the manuscript.
- (6) **Plagiarism:** Unauthorized use or close imitation of texts, figures or tables of others and the representation of them as one's own original work without permission or acknowledgment by the author of the source of these materials.
- (7) **Copyright Infringement:** Use of texts, figures or tables from others without appropriate permission from the copyright holder.
- (8) **Inappropriate References:** Including materials in the Reference section that have nothing to do with the content of the manuscript.

As recommended by ICMJE, when scientific misconduct is alleged, or concerns are otherwise raised about the conduct or integrity of work described in submitted or published papers, *Circulation Journal* will initiate appropriate procedures detailed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (<https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Flowcharts>).

## **9. Corrigendum, Expression of Concern and Retraction:**

*Circulation Journal* handles corrigendum, expressions of concern, and retractions in accordance with the Retraction Guidelines provided by COPE to ensure industry best practice.

- (1) **Corrigendum:** When any correction of a published manuscript is needed, authors should send a request detailing the situation/reasons to the Editorial Office (cj@j-circ.or.jp) by email. A corrigendum is published with the approval of the Editor-in-Chief. When a correction is suggested or the content of a published manuscript is questioned by readers, the Editor-in-Chief shares that with the contact author first. The author is required to respond to the inquiry from the journal in a timely manner, and the corrigendum is published as deemed necessary by the Editor-in-Chief, based on the results of the discussion with the authors.
- (2) **Expression of Concern:** In the case of any suspected issue with a manuscript considered for publication or published in *Circulation Journal* being brought up, the Editor-in-Chief first asks the authors for an explanation. If the issue is not resolved and the Editor-in-Chief believes there are strong concerns even after checking with the authors and appropriate investigations, the journal may publish an Expression of Concern to notify readers of potentially misleading information in the article.
- (3) **Retraction:** If authors wish to retract their manuscript, they are to send a request detailing the situation/reasons to the Editorial Office (cj@j-circ.or.jp) by email. The Editor-in-Chief then evaluates the reasons and decides how to address the issue. If any doubts or allegations of misconduct are raised by readers about the contents of a published article, according to the retraction flowchart of COPE, *Circulation Journal* will handle the issue as follows: The Editor-in-Chief reports the doubt to the contact author first. The author is required to respond to the inquiry from the journal in a timely fashion. The Editor-in-Chief will discuss and evaluate the response, and may conduct further investigations. Based on the results of the discussion and further investigation, the Editor-in-Chief decides whether to alert readers about the presentation of seriously erroneous data that invalidate the conclusion of the study or of ethical misconduct. The final decision on whether to retract the article will be communicated to the contact author and, if necessary, any relevant bodies and institutions. The published retraction specifies the data of the manuscript concerned, a link to the manuscript, and the detailed reason for the retraction.

*Circulation Journal* will not delete the original manuscript.

## **10.** Use of Copyrighted Material:

Every reproduced figure or table used in manuscripts submitted to *Circulation Journal* must have permission for reuse from the original copyright holder. Authors should obtain permission prior to manuscript submission, and clearly state that in the figure/table legend.

*Examples:*

- (1) Adapted from reference no. xx with permission.
- (2) Reproduced with permission from xxxx, et al. *Circ J* 2013; 77: xx–xx.

## **11.** Authorship:

As in the ICMJE recommendations, all those designated as authors in a manuscript submitted to *Circulation Journal* should meet **all** of the following 4 criteria for authorship, and all who meet those criteria should be identified as authors. Names of those who do not meet all 4 criteria, such as proofreader, authors' supervisors, fellows or junior staff, should be listed in "Acknowledgments" section of the manuscript:

- (1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data for the work
- (2) Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content
- (3) Final approval of the version to be published
- (4) Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Because adding or omitting co-author(s) cannot be approved after the manuscript has been accepted, ensure that all appropriate authors have been properly listed during the submission process. If additional authors are included in a revised manuscript, the contact author of the manuscript is required to provide the Editorial Office ([cj@j-circ.or.jp](mailto:cj@j-circ.or.jp)) with a detailed reason for their addition. Also, all authors should have agreed and fixed the order in which their names will be displayed in the manuscript prior to submission.

## **12.** Use of the Artificial Intelligence (AI)- assisted technology:

*Circulation Journal* allows authors to use the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted technology only in their text writing process of the manuscript submitted to the journal. The journal will not accept manuscripts for which authors used AI-assisted technology for any other purposes than text writing process. The technology cannot be used to generate the table or figure.

Authors who use such technology are required to disclose that by describing how they used it in the online submission system and the Acknowledgement section of their Main Document.

*Example:*

### **Acknowledgment**

During the preparation of this manuscript, the author(s) used [NAME OF THE TOOL(S) / SERVICE(S)] in order to [REASON].

Also, author(s) should carefully review to confirm that the output text by the AI-assisted technology precisely reflects what they mean in their manuscript. Authors take full responsibility for the content of the publication, including that there is appropriate attribution of all quoted material, including full citations, whether or not they use AI-assisted technology.

### III. Copyright / Permission

Submission of a manuscript to *Circulation Journal* implies that, when the manuscript is accepted for publication, the authors agree to automatic transfer of the copyright to the Japanese Circulation Society. *Circulation Journal* is an open-access journal under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>). Anyone may download, reuse, copy, reprint, and distribute articles published in the journal for not-for-profit purposes if the original authors and source are properly credited. Remixing, transforming or building upon the material is not allowed, and any modified material is prohibited from distribution. For profit or commercial use, appropriate permission by the Japanese Circulation Society is mandatory. If authors would like to post their accepted manuscript on an online repository of an affiliated institution, they can do so as long as they use the accepted version of their manuscript, downloaded from the journal's online submission. In such instances, the authors are responsible for indicating the article's citation and the link to the published article on *Circulation Journal's* online journal website (<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/circj-char/en>).

### IV. Submission of Manuscripts:

All manuscripts must be submitted electronically through *Circulation Journal's* online submission system (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cj>). The submitting author should upload the manuscript files in appropriate file formats according to the instructions provided. After manuscript files are uploaded, the manuscript will undergo a conversion process. Before completing submission, the submitting author is required to thoroughly check the converted PDF file.

### V. Authorship Agreement Form:

Soon after receiving a decision letter of acceptance, the contact/submitting author should complete the "Authorship Agreement" form ([https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/societyimages/cj/Agreement\\_CJ.doc](https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/societyimages/cj/Agreement_CJ.doc)) with all co-authors' signatures, and email/fax it to the Editorial Office ([cj@j-circ.or.jp](mailto:cj@j-circ.or.jp)).

### VI. Manuscript Format:

All manuscripts should be written in English (US spelling) and prepared according to the following specifications. Refer to the ICMJE Recommendations (<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>) for things not indicated below or further questions/concerns.

**1.** The main document should be typewritten with double spacing, and include the following in general:

- (1) Title page
- (2) Abstract
- (3) Key Words
- (4) Text
- (5) Acknowledgments
- (6) Data Availability
- (7) References
- (8) Legends for Tables and/or Figures

**2.** Pages should be numbered consecutively in this sequence, beginning with the title page.

**3.** The title page must have the following contents:

- (1) Complete title of the paper; Abbreviations are not acceptable in the title.

- (2) Name(s) of author(s) with highest academic degree(s). Note that fellows of the Japanese Circulation Society are supposed to add FJCS after their academic degrees.
- (3) Affiliations of all authors at the time of the study (i.e. department and institution).
- (4) Short title; Up to 50 characters, including spaces, can be used.
- (5) Disclosures; Information on all COI, grants, and sources of funding related to the manuscript should be declared.
- (6) IRB information; Name of the ethics committee and the reference number.
- (7) Name and address of the author responsible for correspondence.

**4.** Abstracts in manuscript types “Clinical Investigation”, “Experimental Investigation” and “Rapid Communication” should be structured, and have the following 3 headings:

Headings	What to indicate under the heading
Background	Rationale for study
Method and Results	Brief presentation of methods and presentation of significant results; Note that both categories should be included under the one heading.
Conclusions	Succinct statement of data interpretation

Some manuscript types do not require an abstract. Refer to **VII. Manuscript Types** for details.

**5.** Units of measurement should be SI units, except for blood pressure, which should be expressed in mmHg. Do not spell out numbers and standard units of measurement except at the beginning of sentences. Use Arabic numerals and standard abbreviations to indicate numbers and units.

**6.** References must be numbered consecutively as they appear in the text, and be listed in the same numerical order at the end of the article. They should accord with the system used in the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*. Only published manuscripts are acceptable as references. If a reference is from a yet-to-be-published book, include ‘In Press’ as well as the anticipated year of publication. If a reference is published online only, the “DOI” or “URL, as well as the last available date of access” should be provided. The titles of referenced journals should be abbreviated to the style used in Index Medicus (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html>). All author names should be listed when referenced material has 6 or less authors; when it has 7 or more, only the first 6 authors’ names should be listed, with “et al.” at the end.

*Examples:*

- (1) Tanaka S, Yokoyama C, Kawamura I, Takasugi N, Kubota T, Ushikoshi H, et al. Conservative medication follow-up for over 20 years of a patient with ischemic heart disease after diagnosis of chronic total occlusion of the 3 main coronary arteries. *Circ J* 2008; **72**: 1205-1209.
- (2) Opie LH. Mechanism of cardiac contraction and relaxation. In: Braunwald E, editor. Heart disease, 5th edn. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1997; 360-393.
- (3) Hunt SA, Abraham WT, Chin MH, Feldman AM, Francis GS, Ganiats TG, et al. 2009 Focused update incorporated into the ACC/AHA 2005 Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Heart Failure in Adults A Report of the ACC/AHA Task Force on Practice Guidelines Developed in Collaboration With the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2009; **53**: e1-e90, doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2008.11.013.

**7.** All figures in a manuscript are highly recommended to be in full color; publication in color is cost-free. Letters and symbols in figures should be clear and of sufficient size to be legible after reduction to the width of one column. Specify the size to be printed, if necessary. Figures in accepted manuscripts could be chosen to appear on the front cover of *Circulation Journal*.

**8.** Contents of supplementary files will be published in the online journal only. Therefore, if a supplementary file contains References, they should be separate from those in the main document, and only refer to the content in the supplementary file(s).

## VII. Manuscript Types:

Manuscript Types	Total word count	Abstract word count	No. of Tables (T) Figures (F) Supplementary Files (S)	No. of References	Other requirements
<b>Specific content to fall under the manuscript type / Specific policies</b>					
Clinical Investigation	≤ 6000	≤ 220	T/F: ≤ 8 in total S: ≤ 3	No limitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ 3–5 Keywords</li> <li>▸ Structured Abstract with 3 headings</li> </ul>
Experimental Investigation	≤ 6000	≤ 220	T/F: ≤ 8 in total S: ≤ 3	No limitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ 3–5 Keywords</li> <li>▸ Structured Abstract with 3 headings</li> </ul>
Rapid Communication	≤ 3000	≤ 100	T/F: ≤ 4 in total	≤ 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ 3 Keywords</li> <li>▸ Structured Abstract with 3 headings</li> </ul>
<p>“Rapid Communication” is a report of novel findings of particular importance and/or current interest and will be accepted if they merit immediate publication. The manuscripts will normally be published within 2 months of acceptance.</p>					
Manuscript Types	Total word count	Abstract word count	No. of Tables (T) Figures (F) Supplementary Files (S)	No. of References	Other requirements
<b>Specific content to fall under the manuscript type / Specific policies</b>					
Images in Cardiovascular Medicine	≤ 400	N/A	T: N/A F: ≤ 1 S: ≤ 2	≤ 3	
<p>“Images in Cardiovascular Medicine” should contain a novel color image with scientific impact. Note that we do not accept any case reports. The manuscript normally occupies 1 journal page.</p>					
Review Article (Invited)	≤ 6000	≤ 220	T/F: ≤ 8 in total S: ≤ 3	No limitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Upon request from the Editor-in-Chief</li> <li>▸ Unstructured Abstract</li> </ul>
<p>“Review Article” is usually invited one, but we will also consider limited number of non-invited submissions.</p>					
Letter to the Editor	≤ 400	N/A	T/F: ≤ 1	≤ 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Letters only on a manuscript published in Circulation Journal</li> <li>▸ Submission can be made for 180 days after the subject manuscript’s online publication</li> <li>▸ No. of Authors: ≤ 5</li> </ul>
Editorial (Invited)	≤ 1500	N/A	T/F: ≤ 2	≤ 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Upon request from the Editor-in-Chief</li> <li>▸ Subject manuscript should be cited.</li> </ul>
<p>“Editorial” normally occupies no more than 2 journal pages.</p>					
Case Report	<i>Circulation Journal</i> ceased accepting Case Reports from 31st October 2008.				

(1) *Circulation Journal* considers publication of the following manuscript types: original articles on “Clinical Investigation” and “Experimental Investigation”, “Rapid Communications”, “Images in Cardiovascular Medicine”, “Review Article”, “Guideline / Statement”, “Editorial”, “Letter to the Editor” and “Author’s Reply”.



- (2) Authors who submit or resubmit manuscripts to the journal are required to have all of their manuscript files strictly reflect the Requirements outlined here. When any part does not, we cannot start either the initial or revision review process.
- (3) “Total word count” is the total number of all words appearing in the manuscript files, except for the text in Table(s) and Figure(s). Note that legends for these are included in the “Total word count”.

## **VIII. Peer Review Processes:**

### **1. General:**

*Circulation Journal* uses a single blind peer-review process, where the reviewers’ identities remain anonymous to the authors. Every manuscript submitted to the journal will be peer reviewed. *Circulation Journal* does not allow reviewers to upload the manuscript they are reviewing to software or other AI-assisted technologies which cannot assure confidentiality, as the journal requires reviewers to keep manuscripts and the information which they contain strictly confidential. If reviewers need to use AI technologies to facilitate their review, they must request permission from the journal in advance. Also, reviewers should be aware that AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete, or biased.

### **2. Initial Submission:**

Peer review process for initial submission is as follows:

- (1) Manuscripts submitted to *Circulation Journal* go through technical evaluation by the Editorial Office. Manuscripts that are not in accordance with the journal's policy and/or Instructions to Authors will be returned to the contact author for necessary modifications.
- (2) After the completion of the technical evaluation, the Editor-in-Chief reviews the manuscript to determine whether it meets essential criteria and readership of *Circulation Journal* to warrant further consideration for peer review.
- (3) If the paper satisfies the journal’s screening criteria, the Editor-in-Chief assigns an Associate Editor who is an expert in the paper’s research area from the journal’s Associate Editors list.
- (4) The Associate Editor evaluates eligibility for publication and sends the manuscript to peer reviewer(s). All original manuscripts are usually evaluated by 2 reviewers who are experts in the paper’s research area. Invited reviewers are required to report immediately any potential personal, professional or financial conflicts of interest with authors or related to a manuscript’s theme and/or topic when receiving a review invitation. In such cases, the Associate Editor invites another reviewer.
- (5) Reviewers who agree to review the manuscript are asked to complete a score sheet and submit it to the Associate Editor in 2 weeks. Once all reviews are complete, reviewers are required to destroy manuscript copies.
- (6) The Associate Editor will then review the paper and submit a recommendation based on the reviewer(s)’ score sheet(s) to the Editor-in-Chief within 5 days.
- (7) Based on the opinions of the Associate Editor and the reviewer(s), the Editor-in-Chief makes a final decision and sends a decision letter to all authors of the manuscript via email. Final decisions include: Accept, Minor Revision, Moderate, Major Revision, and Reject. The Editor-in-Chief is the only person who can officially accept a paper for publication.
- (8) Following the formal acceptance of manuscript for publication, the paper will then proceed to English-language editing, production for online publishing, proofing, and to the online publication in sequence.

### **3. Revisions:**

A decision letter provides questions that were raised during the review process, and/or manuscript status information. It may also recommend revision (Minor Revision, Moderate or Major Revision) when applicable. In that case, authors are required to respond to each and every review comment in a response letter and their manuscript accordingly within 3 months from receipt

of the decision letter. In revised manuscript files, all texts/areas updated for that resubmission should be highlighted in yellow.

Peer-review process for revisions is as follows:

- (1) Revised manuscripts undergo a technical evaluation by the Editorial Office. Revision Submission must include a detailed point-by-point response to the reviewers' and editors' comments and any revision in the manuscript must be highlighted in yellow.
- (2) Once the technical evaluation is completed, the paper proceeds to peer-review. Reviewer(s), who are usually the same as for the initial review, evaluate whether or not all their suggestions and/or questions have been adequately addressed in the revised manuscript as well as the authors' response letter. They are asked to complete a score sheet and submit it to the Associate Editor in 2 weeks.
- (3) The Associate Editor will then submit a recommendation determined by reference to the reviewer(s)' score sheet(s) in 5 days. Further peer or statistical review may be added at this time.
- (4) Based on the opinions of the Associate Editor and reviewer(s), the final decision is made by the Editor-in-Chief.

## IX. Transfer:

Authors could be suggested by the editors to transfer their manuscript to *Circulation Journal's* online-only sister journal, *Circulation Reports*. They should check the latest *Circulation Reports'* Instructions to Authors ([https://www.j-circ.or.jp/english/cr/Instructions\\_CR.pdf](https://www.j-circ.or.jp/english/cr/Instructions_CR.pdf)) and reply whether they agree to the transfer when they receive a transfer-invitation email.

## X. Proofs:

Galley proofs of accepted manuscripts will be sent to the authors for their correction. Changes should be limited to typographical errors or errors in the presentation of data. Excessive corrections may be rejected by the editors.

## XI. Manuscript Summary and Central Figure:

Authors of accepted manuscripts are required to provide a short summary and a central figure of their manuscript at the same timing of their proof reading. Central figure should hopefully be an image newly created to summarize the whole content of their manuscript, however, most important one of the tables/figures in their manuscript could be also used. The manuscript's summary and central figure would be posted on the Japanese Circulation Society's official Twitter account ([https://twitter.com/JCIRC\\_IPR](https://twitter.com/JCIRC_IPR)) with the manuscript's DOI and journal's hashtag, for the purpose of capturing the attention of a wide readership to increase traffic to their manuscript. More details and sample central figures are available on our website (<https://www.j-circ.or.jp/english/cj/summary-and-central-figure>).

## XII. Publication Charges:

*Circulation Journal* will issue an invoice of publication charge based on the chart below for a manuscript which is online-published on or after August 1, 2023 (JST):

Manuscript types	Fee for submissions from outside Japan	Fee for submissions from Japan (consumption tax 10% included)
Clinical Investigation Experimental Investigation Rapid Communication Review Article (Not invited)	JPY90000	JPY99000

Images in Cardiovascular Medicine Letter to the Editor	JPY45000	JPY49500
Review Article (Invited) Guideline / Statement (Invited) Editorial (Invited) Author's Reply (Invited)	0	0

The country of submission is judged by the billing address for the manuscript's publication fee. Manuscripts online-published on or before July 31, 2023 (JST) is billed according to the previous price list regardless of the country of submission – JPY100000 for following manuscript types: Clinical Investigation, Experimental Investigation, Rapid Communication, and Review Article (Not-invited), and JPY50000 for following manuscript types: Images in Cardiovascular Medicine and Letter to the Editor. If payment of any previously accepted manuscript cannot be confirmed by the Editorial Office, all authors of the manuscript will no longer be able to submit a new manuscript to *Circulation Journal*.

### **XIII. Offprints:**

Offprints are available in a multiple of 100 copies when ordered with the return of the proofs. We may ask you for an application for our secondary use permission if you order more than 300 offprints. Contact the Editorial Office ([cj@j-circ.or.jp](mailto:cj@j-circ.or.jp)) for further details.

(February 27, 2024)