American Journal of Physiology: Heart and Circulatory Physiology will continue most of the policies that have characterized the American Journal of Physiology throughout its long and distinguished existence. It will publish articles that deal with all aspects of the physiology of the heart, blood, vessels, and the circulatory system as a whole. Physiology will be interpreted in its full sense as the study of body functions, whether it be pursued by means of physical, chemical, mathematical, anatomical, or pathological techniques. Original papers submitted to the new Journal will continue to receive the same critical and constructive review as in the past, and the same high standards will be maintained.

The Editorial Board for heart and circulatory physiology has been increased in number thus insuring the thorough, expeditious, and competent evaluation of submitted manuscripts: where previously three Section Editors reviewed for Circulation and one for Hematology, now one Editor and five Associate Editors review for the American Journal of Physiology: Heart and Circulatory Physiology. Where under the former system twenty-two members of the Board were appointed to the Circulation Section and four to the Hematology Section, the Editorial Board now has a total of forty-nine members. Furthermore, invaluable assistance in the review of manuscripts was formerly obtained from a large number of distinguished guest referees; this policy will be continued.

Undoubtedly, areas of overlap will occur with the other journals of the American Journal of Physiology and with the Journal of Applied Physiology: Respiratory, Environmental and Exercise Physiology. For example, some papers dealing with the effects of exercise or of environmental stress on the circulatory system may be equally appropriate for this new journal or for the Journal of Applied Physiology: Respiratory, Environmental and Exercise Physiology. Under such circumstances, the author’s preference will usually determine which Journal will consider the paper for publication.

Papers dealing with new techniques and equipment that appeared to be of value in the study of the cardiovascular system formerly were published in the Journal of Applied Physiology. Such Special Communications will now appear in this new Journal. Whenever possible, authors are encouraged to incorporate these new techniques as part of the methods section of their research papers. However, when this is not feasible, important new techniques may be published as brief, independent papers.

Several “Editors’ Pages” will be included in each issue of the new Journal. At times, they will consist of editorials or announcements. The most important function of these pages, however, will be the publication of review articles. These will be mostly invited articles, although the unsolicited will also be considered. Our present intention is to group a series of review articles in successive issues to develop a single theme. The first series will deal with cardiac electrophysiology. The aim of publishing such reviews is to serve equally students and teachers, as well as investigators. Even though the majority of these papers will be invited, they will receive an even more intensive editorial review than the regular research contributions. One major function of such editorial evaluation will be to determine that the review article is lucid and comprehensible, not only to authorities in that field, but also to the student and teacher who is not an expert in the specific area covered by the paper.

The principal purpose of the new format of the American Journal of Physiology is to enhance its service to its readers and contributors. This objective will be accomplished only if there is ample feedback. The editors will be grateful for suggestions from readers, especially with respect to the content of the "Editors’ Pages.” We will appreciate suggestions for topics and contributors of future reviews, and any other constructive advice that our readers wish to proffer.

Matthew N. Levy
Editor