

Frontiers in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research

We are always interested in what comes next for our field. But the future is impossible to appreciate without a proper accounting of the past. In this issue of *Circ CQO*, we introduce a new series entitled Frontiers in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research that is meant to bridge these two ideas. The goal of Frontiers papers will be for experts to help our readers simultaneously understand both the prior work and emerging landscape and challenges within crucial areas of importance in cardiovascular health services and policy research.

Although the format of Frontiers papers allows for authors to take deeper dives into a topic, they are not meant to be a typical review article. Review articles have never been a great fit for us given our frequently evolving fields of investigation. Yet the ability to reflect on the past and then use it as a lens toward the future has always been essential to scientific endeavors, and it is a model followed by several papers we've published in the past.^{1,2} That is the gap we hope these papers will continue to fill.

What is a good Frontiers paper and what will be its essential components? First and most importantly, the topic needs to be of general interest to our readers. We want you to tackle big and thorny problems. We welcome your early inquiries in this regard about potential ideas you think might be best suited for us. Second, we will require that these papers involve a group of experts in the field. By experts, we do not mean that gray hairs are required—only that the authors include a diverse group of investigators who have thought about this problem and its potential solutions for a while. (And the more diverse, the better.) Last, it is critical for Frontiers papers to focus a substantial portion of its text on contemporary and future challenges within a particular field.

In this February issue of *Circ CQO*, the paper by Aggarwal et al on sex differences in ischemic heart disease exemplifies each of these components—and we are proud to publish it in a month linked to the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women movement. We encourage you to read it.

Moving forward, we hope you'll send us your ideas for potential Frontiers papers. Our goal is to publish ≈2 to 3 a year. We already see the potential for many great Frontiers papers growing out of the multidisciplinary workshops that frequently occur at national conferences and through sponsored workshops by funders, like the National Institutes of Health and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. We hope that the availability of a format like Frontiers papers will provide authors the ability to share the wonderful ideas and shared dialogue that come out of these settings.

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The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the American Heart Association.

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DISCLOSURES

None.

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FOOTNOTES

Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes is available at <http://circoutcomes.ahajournals.org>.

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