



Almost a Centenarian—Bold, Forward, and Networking

“Unlike in the past, there are now two kinds of people in the world: those who own and run the networks, and those who merely use them.”¹

Niall Ferguson

Encouraging signs regarding the COVID-19 pandemic continue as 2023 begins, and our professional and personal lives are now resuming a pattern and rhythm they once knew. Against this backdrop of relief and continued hopefulness, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (MCP) begins the new year by expressing its gratitude and appreciation to our authors, who provide the depth and diversity of content valued by our readers; to our reviewers, who diligently and perceptively safeguard the quality of our published content; and to our readers, for all their support and fidelity. We are delighted to communicate that our Impact Factor—a coin of the publishing realm that largely reflects citation of a journal’s content—provided by Journal Citation Reports in the fall of 2022 was at an all-time high of 12.213, representing an increment of 4.597 from the Impact Factor of 7.616 reported in the summer of 2021. Another index of the impact of MCP is that in 2021, we experienced 6,354,700 downloads of our content. In addition, our content resonates with the lay press; for example, in the fall of 2022, the signal paper by Shanafelt and colleagues demonstrating markedly increased rates of burnout in physicians during the pandemic was featured in the *New York Times*. We owe these felicitous outcomes so overwhelmingly to the unfailing support of our network of authors, reviewers, and readers; to our editors and office staff; to our publisher, Ms Vicki Wetherell, and Elsevier; and to Dean Fredric Meyer and the leadership of the Education Shield at Mayo Clinic.

Mayo Clinic Proceedings is now in its 97th year of continuous publication since its provenance as the *Bulletin of the Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation* in 1926. During this journey, MCP published novel contributions pertaining to cardiac bypass surgery, blood banking, the development of insulin therapy for diabetes, the treatment of tuberculosis, and some of the salient discoveries by Kendall and Hench that led up to the discovery of cortisone at Mayo Clinic and the award of the Nobel Prize in 1950. In more recent years, notable publications include the first description of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; the diagnostic power and potential of the echocardiogram; novel findings regarding cardiorespiratory fitness and plasma cell dyscrasias; novel therapeutic approaches to spinal cord injury; and the recognition of the phenomenon of burnout and ameliorative strategies that may be pursued at the level of the individual physician, work unit, institution, and health care system.

By 2015, it became increasingly clear that MCP received more meritorious content than it could publish. To provide an appropriate forum for such content, the leadership of Mayo Clinic set the stage for its first expansion journal, *MCP: Innovations, Quality & Outcomes* (MCP:IQ&O), which focused on these areas of health care and has been published as an online only journal since 2017. The Editor-in-Chief of MCP:IQ&O is Dr Taimur Sher, a Consultant in Hematology and Medical Oncology, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida, and Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine; Dr Sher leads the Multi-Specialty Amyloidosis Program at Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida. Drawing on such expertise and his experience in complex systems solutions, bioethics, and regulatory affairs, Dr Sher

envisions and directs *MCP:IQ&O* as a knowledge platform for content related to innovations, quality, and outcomes pertinent to present and future challenges and issues faced by the health care ecosystem.

This first *MCP* expansion journal marked the beginnings of a network of *MCP* journals. The significance and influence of networks are explicit in the celebrated quote from Niall Ferguson's book *The Square and the Tower*, used as an epigraph for this editorial.¹ Networks, compared with a single unconnected node or even collections of relatively few nodes, are truly catalytic in what they can achieve and are ever resilient in the face of imposed stress. Networks not only provide influence, reach, and engagement because of their connectivity and number of nodes, but also may concentrate regional connectivity in distinct areas called community structures in which the particular nodes of such areas have substantially higher connectivity and share commonalities more among themselves, rather than with other nodes outside the given community. We suggest that a family of journals may be viewed as a network and a given expansion journal may be considered a community structure within that network.

In the fall of 2022, and based on the foresight of Dean Fredric Meyer, a second expansion journal was launched by the leadership of Mayo Clinic in collaboration with Elsevier—*MCP: Digital Health*. The field of digital health seeks to advance health care by capitalizing on the current and anticipated innovations in digital transformation (Computer Weekly.com: <https://www.techtarget.com/searchhealthit/definition/digital-health-digital-healthcare>). A major underpinning of and impetus for digital transformation is artificial intelligence (AI), which, as discussed in the marvelous book *The Age of AI*², can go far beyond what is attainable by the human intellect, in part because “AIs are imprecise, dynamic, emergent, and capable of learning”²; “imprecise” in this sense means that AIs do not require exact inputs and outputs. The field of digital health is both bold and forward—it

holds out the potential and promise of health care that delivers better patient outcomes, promotes patients' engagement in and access to their health care, more effectively serves disease prevention, is more efficient and cheaper, and, indeed, is transformative in bettering the lives of patients. Along with AI, digital health embraces such technologies as, among others, machine learning, information technology, and repositories of big data; its immediate deliverables are envisioned to be in telemedicine/telehealth, wearables, mobile technology, the electronic health record, and precision medicine. The Editor-in-Chief of *MCP: Digital Health* is Dr Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, a Consultant in Cardiovascular Diseases, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, and a Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine; Dr Lopez-Jimenez is Co-Director of Artificial Intelligence in Cardiology and Co-Chair, Advanced Healthcare and Analytics work group, American College of Cardiology. Drawing on such expertise and his experience in machine learning and digital health solutions in clinical practice, Dr Lopez-Jimenez envisions and directs *MCP: Digital Health* to be a forum for content pertinent to the harnessing of digital transformation in health care advancement.

This network theme is also played out in another initiative at *MCP*, namely, the “internationalization” of the journal. *MCP* endeavors to reach as large a global readership and audience as possible, and in this regard, we have started a section of international associate editors drawn from around the world. These associate editors will recruit articles from authors in their respective regions and will also provide perspectives and other content on topics germane to their region. Additionally, these associate editors will assist in recruiting new members to *MCP*'s editorial board from their geographic area.

We are excited and privileged to serve as best as we can all our readers, authors, and reviewers, providing for this global network an expanding network of *MCP* journals. To all, our best wishes for 2023.

POTENTIAL COMPETING INTERESTS

Dr Nath reports no competing interests. Dr Fonseca has done consulting unrelated to this work for Amgen, BMS, Celgene, Takeda, Bayer, Janssen, Novartis, Pharmacyclics, Sanofi, Merck, Juno, Kite, Aduro, Onco-Tracker, GSK, Abbvie, Pfizer, Karyopharm Scientific Advisory Board, and Adaptive Biotechnologies.

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It is our true privilege to warmly acknowledge the outstanding contributions and dedication of Ms Terry Jopke, Ms Kim Sankey, and Ms Peg Wentz, members of the Editorial Office of *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. We also wish to welcome Ms Carin Minelli, who has joined

the Editorial Office to provide editorial support for these expansion journals.

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REFERENCES

1. Ferguson N. *The Square and the Tower: Networks and Power, from Freemasons to Facebook*. Penguin Press; 2018.
2. Kissinger HA, Schmidt E, Huttenlocher D. *The Age of AI and Our Human Future*. Little, Brown; 2021, p. 57.