The American Heart Association (AHA) continues its half-century tradition as the premier provider of the highest impact cardiovascular and stroke science information with this month’s debut of AHA Journals Online. The introduction of the AHA’s new World Wide Web (WWW) site is another major step toward expanding the reach of the journals, providing readers with virtually instant access to an unparalleled breadth of information. Online availability of the AHA journals—Circulation; Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology; Circulation Research; Hypertension; and Stroke—make this new site the single most important gateway to cardio- and cerebrovascular information available for professionals.

AHA Journals Online provides an unprecedented wealth of published material: full text and graphics in the AHA Journals as they publish; sophisticated searching capabilities; the full text and graphics of the past three years of the AHA Journals (available in 1999); references linked to MedLine abstracts; and free links to various related scientific journals (major among them Science, Journal of Biological Chemistry, and Blood). The integration of Adobe PDF® files ensures that when online information is printed, content looks exactly as it does in the print publications. Advanced cross referencing and hyperlinking enable you, when reading an article in any journal, to connect directly with the full text of referenced articles, even if you are not a subscriber to journals in which those articles appear.

You can register to receive additional special services, such as advance e-mail notification of the online release of the latest issue of the publication or publications to which you subscribe, complete with entire tables of contents. AHA Journals are committed to bringing breakthrough medical and scientific news and intelligence to cardiologists, researchers, and other health care professionals as swiftly as possible. The prompt availability of current issues is of particular value to our overseas subscribers, who otherwise wait from several days to several weeks after publication to receive their journals even by the expedited air delivery service employed by the AHA. International users will find the high-speed connection through the “International” sites a welcome relief from the slow connections on the public Internet.

As you know, the goal of the AHA Journals is to attract papers that represent the cutting edge of cardiovascular and stroke scholarship and practice. This is evidenced in AHA Journals Online by advanced but easy-to-use keyword searching and other features designed to support researchers and authors. By completing a personalized profile indicating areas of interest (particular authors or certain words in titles or abstracts, for example) you may request that the Researcher Alerting Service notify you by e-mail when material of interest to you is published in AHA Journals. Another feature of significance to researchers is the capability, built into the site, that formats key information in an article and allows the reader to export it to a citation manager—a cut and paste feature that spares authors the need to retype citations.

With the inauguration of the new AHA Journals Online site, the AHA proudly opens the door to the world’s leading cardiovascular and cerebrovascular resources, making them available around the clock and from one central location. The Web site is and always will be a work in progress, dependent on feedback from readers. The AHA invites visitors to AHA Journals Online to complete and e-mail back the user questionnaire. The information received will shape the ongoing evolution of content and features.

Until the end of the year, AHA Journals Online is giving readers free access to the five journals in their entirety. After this, readers will be able to access full text and graphics of the journal(s) to which they subscribe and hyperlink to full text and graphics of referenced and related articles in the other journals. Online-only subscriptions also will be available and libraries will be able to sign up for site licenses.

You can reach AHA Journals Online at http://www.ahajournals.org. We welcome your interest and participation in this exciting new venture.

David P. Faxon, MD
AHA Scientific Publishing Committee Chair

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AHA Journals Lead With Definitive New Online Site
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