

EDITORIAL

Inaugural editorial: A foreword from the Editors-in-Chief

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It is our great pleasure to launch the inaugural issue of *Brain & Heart*, a new academic journal dedicated to exploring the intricate and fascinating relationship between the brain and the heart. For too long, the vital connection between these two important organs has been overlooked in medical research and clinical practice. As the founding editors-in-chief of this journal, we are thrilled to introduce a platform that aims to bridge the gap and shed light on the significance of this connection in health and disease.

The brain and the heart are two of the most vital organs in the human body, and their functions are closely intertwined. As the control center of the nervous system, the brain regulates various physiological processes, including those that influence the cardiovascular system. On the other hand, the heart pumps oxygen and nutrients to the brain, providing the essential fuel for its optimal function. Despite their interdependence, countless researches and clinical practice in the past have often focused on these organs separately, neglecting the crucial connection between them.

Recent scientific advances have begun to uncover the complex interactions between the cerebro- and the cardiovascular systems, revealing how their functions are intricately linked. For example, the connection between blood vessels can lead to cardioembolic stroke. Understanding the role of the autonomic nervous system in modulating blood pressure and heart rhythm, and how it impacts overall cardiac function, has been gaining more attention. Moreover, emerging evidence suggests bidirectional influences between neurologic conditions and heart health, with conditions such as stroke, dementia, and depression having significant implications for cardiovascular health. These findings highlight the need for a multidisciplinary approach that brings experts from various fields together to explore the crossroads of brain and heart research.

Brain & Heart aims to fill this gap by providing a dedicated platform for researchers and clinicians to share their latest findings, insights, and perspectives on the connection between the brain and the heart. The journal welcomes original research articles, reviews, and commentaries spanning a wide range of disciplines, including cardiology, neurology, neuroscience, vascular biology, physiology, and related fields. We encourage submissions that elucidate the molecular, cellular, physiological, and clinical aspects of brain-heart interactions, including but not limited to the impact of blood vessels and nerves, the role of autonomic nervous system in cardiovascular regulation, the influence of cardiac conditions on brain function, and the mechanisms underlying brain-heart crosstalk in health and disease. We also welcome studies that explore the effects of interventions, such as pharmacological, lifestyle, or device-based, on brain and heart health.

As the field of brain and heart research continues to evolve, *Brain & Heart* is committed to maintaining the highest standards of scientific rigor and integrity. Our rigorous peer-

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review process ensures that published articles are of the highest quality and contribute to the advancement of the field. We also strive to provide a platform that is inclusive and representative of diverse perspectives and voices, and we encourage submissions from researchers across the globe. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, we hope to stimulate new ideas, facilitate knowledge exchange, and advance our understanding of the intricate interplay between the brain and the heart. Our mission is to promote the translation of basic science discoveries into clinical practice, and *vice versa*, to improve patient care and outcomes.

At last, we are honored to introduce *Brain & Heart* as a pioneering platform for interdisciplinary research concerning the intersection of brain and heart health. We hereby invite researchers and physicians working in this field to contribute to the growing body of knowledge that will ultimately benefit patients and advance the field of medicine. Together, let's unlock the mysteries of the connection between brain and heart and pave the way for new frontiers in medical research.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.