

ABC Heart Failure & Cardiomyopathy: Management Review and Indexing Perspectives

Germano Emílio Conceição-Souza^{1,2} 

Instituto de Ensino e Pesquisa Clínica São José,¹ São José dos Campos, SP – Brazil

Hospital Regional de São José dos Campos,² São José dos Campos, SP – Brazil

Introduction – context and mission

ABC Heart Failure & Cardiomyopathy (ABC HF) was established in 2021 as a specialized journal within Brazilian Society of Cardiology's (SBC) family of scientific journals. The creation of ABC HF responded to a longstanding request from the Department of Heart Failure (DEIC-SBC) for a dedicated platform for disseminating high-quality research in the fields of heart failure and cardiomyopathies, including their various diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.

The mission of ABC HF goes beyond merely publishing scientific articles. The journal aims to create an environment that encourages the production and dissemination of knowledge, thereby strengthening scientific exchange and establishing itself as a reliable source of information for researchers and healthcare professionals in Portuguese-speaking countries and Latin America, regions that are particularly affected by the significant impact of heart failure.¹

Recognizing that the consolidation of a high-quality scientific journal is the result of a continuous, long-term process is essential. Achieving indexing in prestigious databases such as SciELO and, ultimately, MEDLINE requires institutional commitment, consistent editorial quality, and the continuous improvement of scientific and operational processes.^{2,3}

The recent trajectory of journals within the Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia (ABC Cardiol) family clearly illustrates the challenges associated with processes of editorial consolidation and indexing. For example, Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia Imagem Cardiovascular (ABC Imagem Cardiovascular), which originated from Revista do DIC, was only indexed by SciELO in 2025 after undergoing approximately 3 years of structural adjustments to comply with the database's rigorous requirements.

Similarly, the International Journal of Cardiovascular Sciences underwent a lengthy process of institutional

development. It began life as Revista da SOCERJ, subsequently progressing through editorial restructuring and internationalization before reaching its current stage of scientific consolidation.

Although still a young journal, ABC HF is undergoing a process of similar maturation.

Initial assessment and strategic actions

During the editorial transition meeting held in late October 2025, I took on the role of Associate Editor. This allowed me to participate more actively in the journal's strategic decision-making process, even before I formally took over as Editor-in-Chief in January 2026. From that point onward, it became clear that urgent action was needed to overcome the obstacles hindering the journal's development.

Throughout 2025, the journal published only 17 articles, with no concrete prospect of additional publications in the short term due to the small number of manuscripts progressing through the editorial system. With an annual target of 40 publications, a shortfall of 23 articles was expected, and there was no submission pipeline capable of meeting this demand. This situation posed a significant risk to the regularity of the journal's publications and its credibility among the scientific community and indexing databases.

The management response was characterized by a proactive approach and centralized strategic coordination. Initially, we conducted targeted outreach with members of DEIC-SBC and leading academics in the field and encouraged them to submit high-impact original articles, review articles, and viewpoints.

At the same time, we undertook a comprehensive restructuring of the editorial board, renewing the pool of reviewers and Associate Editors, and prioritizing professionals who are scientifically productive, have editorial experience, and are available to participate actively in the peer-review process. We also introduced weekly meetings with the SBC editorial team to enable greater integration across all stages of the editorial workflow, from supporting authors during manuscript submission to the final phases of translation, production, and publication.

In addition, the journal was aligned with emerging editorial guidelines issued by Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, incorporating specific recommendations regarding the ethical and transparent use of artificial intelligence in manuscript preparation and evaluation.⁴

We also took an educational approach within the editorial process, providing guidance to early-career authors and new

Keywords

Heart Failure; Cardiomyopathies; Heart Transplantation; Publishing; Abstracting and Indexing

Mailing Address: Germano Emílio Conceição-Souza •

Instituto de Ensino e Pesquisa Clínica São José - Rua Teopompo de Vasconcelos, 147, Vila Adyana. Postal Code 12243-830, São José dos Campos, SP - Brazil

E-mail: germano.souza@iepsj.com.br

Manuscript received June 15, 2026, revised manuscript June 17, 2026, accepted June 17, 2026

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36660/abchf.20260033>

reviewers. This reinforced the role of ABC HF as a catalyst for developing intellectual capital in Brazilian cardiology.^{5,6}

Results achieved – objective outcomes

Data from October 2025 to May 2026 show that the implemented measures were effective. During this period, 43 manuscripts were submitted, of which only two were rejected, reflecting an improvement in the quality of the submissions received. A total of 23 manuscripts were accepted, while 18 remain under review. Of these, 11 have already received final acceptance and are currently in advanced stages of editorial production.

A comparative analysis of the indicators reveals a substantial recovery in the journal's activities. Throughout 2025, 52 national and two international manuscripts were submitted, with more than half of these submissions occurring after October 22, 2025. During the first 4 months of 2026, in addition to processing the manuscripts received at the end of 2025, the journal recorded 17 new national submissions and one international submission. A total of 16 national manuscripts were accepted during this period, ensuring the editorial workflow required to meet the publication targets established for the current year.

Achieving the goal of 40 publications in 2025 was only possible due to the emergency acquisition of the remaining 23 manuscripts, a process initiated in October of that year.

The scientific community's engagement was also reflected in the journal's website traffic metrics. While the average monthly number of visits in 2025 was approximately 2,000, the outreach campaign launched in October 2025 resulted in a peak of 8,006 visits. More important than this temporary increase was the sustained growth observed in subsequent months, with 4,665 visits in January, 5,222 in February, 5,938 in March, and 6,372 in May 2026. These figures demonstrate a substantial increase in the visibility and reach of ABC HF among its readership over an 8-month period (Figure 1).

Partnership with the Brazilian Congress of Heart Failure 2026 and the opinion survey

The integration of the journal with the department's scientific events represents one of the cornerstones of the adopted strategy. In collaboration with the Scientific Committee and the Presidency of the Brazilian Congress of Heart Failure 2026, organized by DEIC-SBC, it was established that all accepted abstracts and invited speakers would be formally encouraged to submit their work to ABC HF. The goal is to broaden the reach and visibility of the research presented.

For subsequent years, technological integration between the congress and journal submission systems is planned. The abstract submission platform will include direct access to the ABC HF manuscript submission system, facilitating the conversion of scientific work presented at the congress into formal publications.

This strategy was supported by the results of an opinion survey conducted among 126 DEIC-SBC members. The findings indicated a favorable outlook for future submissions: 28 respondents expressed their intention to submit manuscripts within the following 3 months, 38 within 6 months, and 54 within

1 year. These results reinforce the recognition of ABC HF as a relevant platform for disseminating scientific output in the field.

Editorial Development Plan 2026-2028

The Editorial Development Plan establishes a strategic roadmap aimed at consolidating the journal's editorial excellence. For 2026, the goal is to publish 50 articles while maintaining a minimum proportion of 50% original research articles. This benchmark is considered essential for applications to the DOAJ and LILACS in April 2027, followed by submission to Latindex later that same year. For 2027, the journal aims to publish 80 articles and achieve consolidation within these indexing databases, laying the groundwork for the primary objective of the 3-year period: submission to SciELO in the first quarter of 2028.

To achieve these milestones, three strategic priorities have been established: i) increasing gender diversity and international representation within the editorial board; ii) progressively expanding the proportion of original research articles, with a target of 60% of all accepted manuscripts; and iii) ensuring strict adherence to the journal's publication schedule.

As a benchmark, we have considered the trajectory of other journals within the ABC family. For example, ABC Imagem Cardiovascular achieved SciELO indexing with approximately 25% original research articles and around 25% of articles in other categories, including integrative reviews and case reports accompanied by substantive discussion, indicators that we intend to surpass. In parallel, training initiatives for authors and reviewers are being developed in collaboration with other journals in the ABC family, with the goal of reducing the average time between manuscript submission and final editorial decision.

The expansion of the journal's network of authors, reviewers, and editors is already underway through the implementation of the Ambassadors Program in partnership with DEIC-SBC study groups and other SBC departments. In addition, collaborative initiatives are being pursued with related scientific societies, including the Brazilian Society of Internal Medicine and the Brazilian Intensive Care Medicine Association. Strategic partnerships are also being established with cardiology societies in countries such as Angola, Portugal, and Mozambique as well as across other Latin American nations, with the objective of strengthening ABC HF's regional and international presence.

Sustainability

It is natural for growing scientific journals to face challenges related to financial sustainability, particularly during the period preceding inclusion in major indexing databases, when the ability to attract sponsorships and other funding sources remains limited. The current editorial leadership has addressed this issue with institutional rigor and fiscal responsibility.

In this context, a cost-optimization policy was implemented, including the renegotiation of supplier contracts and a reduction in overhead costs within SBC. As a demonstration of commitment to the journal's long-term viability, the Editor-in-Chief voluntarily waived his remuneration, allowing these resources to be redirected toward maintaining essential operations.

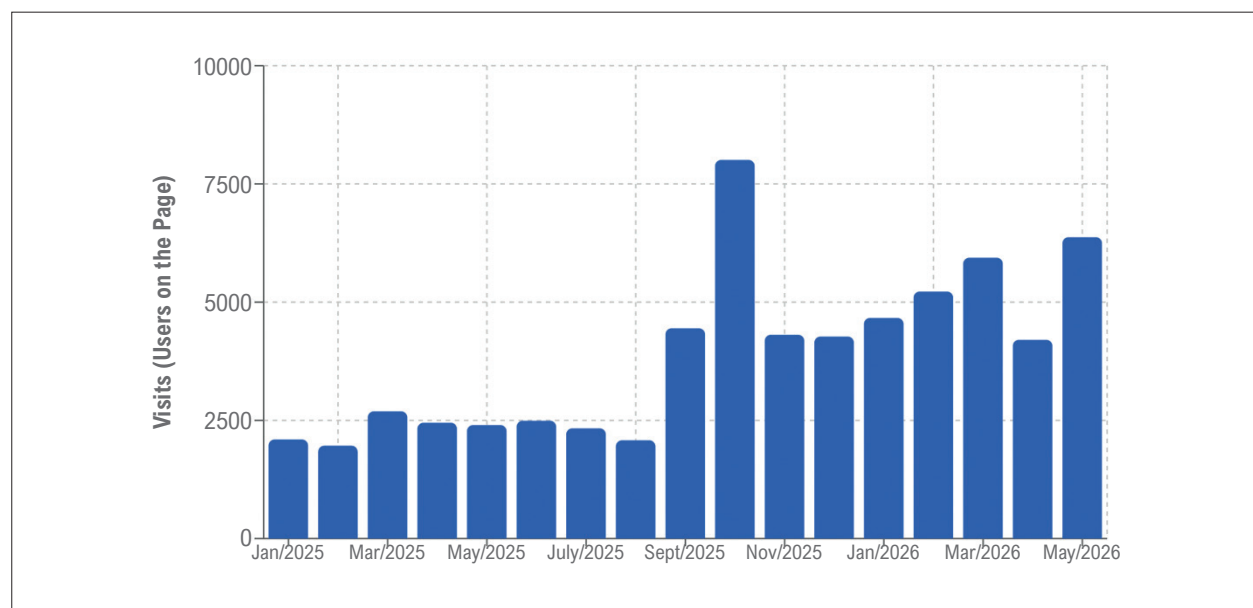


Figure 1 – Evolution of monthly website visits to ABC Heart Failure & Cardiomyopathy from January 2025 to May 2026 as measured by Google Analytics. Sustained growth can be observed beginning in October 2025, with traffic increasing approximately threefold compared with the average recorded during the period preceding the outreach campaign. Source: Google Analytics – Brazilian Society of Cardiology Journals Portal.

We believe that expanding funding opportunities from both public and private sources, including research funding agencies, combined with collective initiatives led by DEIC-SBC and the achievement of future indexing milestones, will be instrumental in diversifying revenue streams and strengthening the financial sustainability of ABC HF.

Final remarks and call to action

ABC HF is a valuable asset of DEIC-SBC. In just a few months, we have demonstrated that it is possible to reverse a scenario of stagnation and establish a trajectory of consistent and measurable growth. However, the ultimate success of this initiative depends not only on the editorial team but

also on the engagement of the entire DEIC-SBC community, particularly at this pivotal moment.

We encourage our members to contribute in three key capacities: i) as authors, by prioritizing the submission of original research articles; ii) as reviewers, by helping to strengthen the journal's scientific quality; and iii) as ambassadors, by promoting the journal within their institutions and among strategic partners.

ABC HF represents an essential platform for increasing the visibility of scientific output in the field and for fostering the development of new talent dedicated to cardiovascular science applied to heart failure and cardiomyopathies. Through the collective efforts of our community, we will strengthen our journal and move closer to achieving SciELO indexing.

References

- Ciaponi A, Alcaraz A, Calderón M, Matta MC, Chaparro M, Soto N, et al. Burden of Heart Failure in Latin America: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Rev Esp Cardiol*. 2016;69(11):1051-60. doi: 10.1016/j.rec.2016.04.054.
- SciELO Brasil. Criteria, Policy and Procedure for Admission and Permanence of Scientific Journals in the SciELO Brazil Collection [Internet]. São Paulo: SciELO Brasil; 2024 [cited 2026 Jun 30]. Available from: <https://www.scielo.br/media/files/20240900-Criteria-SciELO-Brazil-en.pdf>.
- Centro Latino-Americano e do Caribe de Informação em Ciências da Saúde. Critérios de Seleção e Permanência de Periódicos LILACS Brasil [Internet]. São Paulo: BIREME/OPAS/OMS; 2025 [cited 2026 Jun 30]. Available from: https://docs.bvsalud.org/biblioref/2025/07/1609903/final_critérios-de-selecao-e-permanencia-de-periodicos-lilacs-_bcV9Zuh.pdf.
- Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico. Política de Integridade na Atividade Científica - Portaria nº 2.664, de 6 de março de 2026 [Internet]. Brasília: CNPq; 2026 [cited 2026 Jun 30]. Available from: <https://www.gov.br/cnpq/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpq-em-acao/cnpq-publica-portaria-que-institui-politica-de-integridade-na-atividade-cientifica>.
- Hazra S, Lee D, Majumder BP, Kumar S. Accepted with Minor Revisions: Value of AI-Assisted Scientific Writing. In: Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI '26). New York: Association for Computing Machinery; 2026. p. 1-22. doi: 10.1145/3742413.3789140.
- Committee on Publication Ethics. Authorship and AI tools [Internet]. Eastleigh: COPE; 2024 [cited 2026 Jun 30]. Available from: <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/cope-position/authorship-and-ai-tools>.



This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License