

Editorial. CCCB: The journal at age 5

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Dementia
Vascular disease
Brain health
Cognition
Cerebrovascular disease

ABSTRACT

The journal *Cerebral Circulation, Cognition & Behavior (CCCB)* was conceived to serve at the border zone between the fields of cognition, brain vascular function, cerebrovascular disease and neurodegeneration. An umbrella term often used for this spectrum of disorders or conditions is Vascular contributions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia (VCID). The journal was launched in 2020. Since then CCCB has published 146 articles and achieved listing on PubMed, Web of Science, Directory of Open Access Journals and Scopus. A Web of Science journal impact factor of 1.9 for 2023 has recently been released. The journal is online-only, with Gold Open Access. The number of full-text downloads is high, averaging 1200 per article.

Introduction

Why do we need another journal in the field of cognitive disorders? The vascular aspects of neurology and brain science have a choice among good quality journals (*Stroke*, *JCBFM*, *Int J Stroke*). Clinical Neurology is already well served (with *Annals Neurol*, *Neurology* and *JAMA Neurol*) as is the broad territory of Alzheimer's disease and related cognitive disorders (see, for example, the *Alzheimers & Dementia* stable of journals). Manuscripts reporting more molecular, mechanistic studies may find good homes in a fundamental Neuroscience vehicle (*Neuron*, *J Neurosci*).

The present journal, *Cerebral Circulation, Cognition & Behavior (CCCB)* focuses on publishing articles relevant to the progress and understanding of how any types of (cerebro)vascular mechanisms or conditions including stroke- or non-stroke-related manifestations are related to the spectrum of cognitive functions from attention to social cognition, and to Alzheimer disease and other types of neurodegenerative disorders. The concept of vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia (VCID) had gained traction [1-4], serving as a designation of this field of research [5-9]. VCID had no dedicated journal. This was seen as an unmet need and a niche that was worth filling. Hence, CCCB was brought to market in 2020, with Chief Editors Gustavo Román and Anders Wallin. CCCB is the affiliated house journal of The International Society of Vascular Behavioural and Cognitive Disorders, better known as VasCog, see the society's website: <http://www.vascog.org/>

Since its birth in 2020 the infant journal has exhibited healthy growth. The statistics show a robust increase in submissions per year (from 22 submitted in 2020, to 71 in 2023). The journal is online-only, with entirely Gold Open Access, with immediate, permanent and free to access availability of the published version of record on the CCCB website: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/cerebral-circulation-cognition-and-behavior> We have a high rate of full-text downloads,

increasing year on year through 2023 (see Fig. 1). This equates to an impressive download rate of 1200 per published paper, on average.

We are gratified by the geographical diversity of submitting author teams, with papers from Africa, e.g. [5], Australia [6], Europe [7], the Far East [8], India [9], North America [10] and South America [11] (alphabetical listing). We are also pleased with the range of manuscript types submitted to CCCB. Most are original research papers. Approximately 10 % are review articles e.g. [12-26], so far with seven systematic reviews [6,10,27-30]. There are a few case reports [31-38], as well as clinical trial protocols [7,39,40], commentaries [41], editorials [42,43], perspectives [44,45] and reports from conferences [46-48].

We have so far hosted seven special issues, with the expert assistance of invited guest editors. These were on the themes listed below:

- Therapeutic Approaches to Vascular Cognitive Impairment [4]
- Hereditary Small Vessel Diseases of the Brain [23]
- Cognitive and motor interactions and connections in aging and vascular disease [49]
- The Global Epidemiology of VCI: Its Clinical, Cerebrovascular and Neurodegenerative Phenotypes [50]
- Brain Health for Cerebral Circulation Cognition and Behavior, [51]
- Non-Pharmacological Interventions and Modifiable Risk Factors to Prevent Cognitive Decline and Dementia [52]
- Clinical trials, Blood Pressure and Cognition [53]

CCCB is now listed by the following scholarly bibliometric systems: Clarivate-Web of Science, PubMed-PMC, Scopus and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). As a result, we have recently received our first official journal impact factor (JIF). For the year 2023, the Clarivate-WoS impact factor of CCCB is 1.9. This is based on the simple formula:

$$\text{JIF} = (\text{number of citations in 2023}) / (\text{number of published articles in 2023})$$

At the time of writing (August 2024) the PubMed database lists 115

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cccb.2024.100368>

Received 5 September 2024; Accepted 6 September 2024

Available online 7 September 2024

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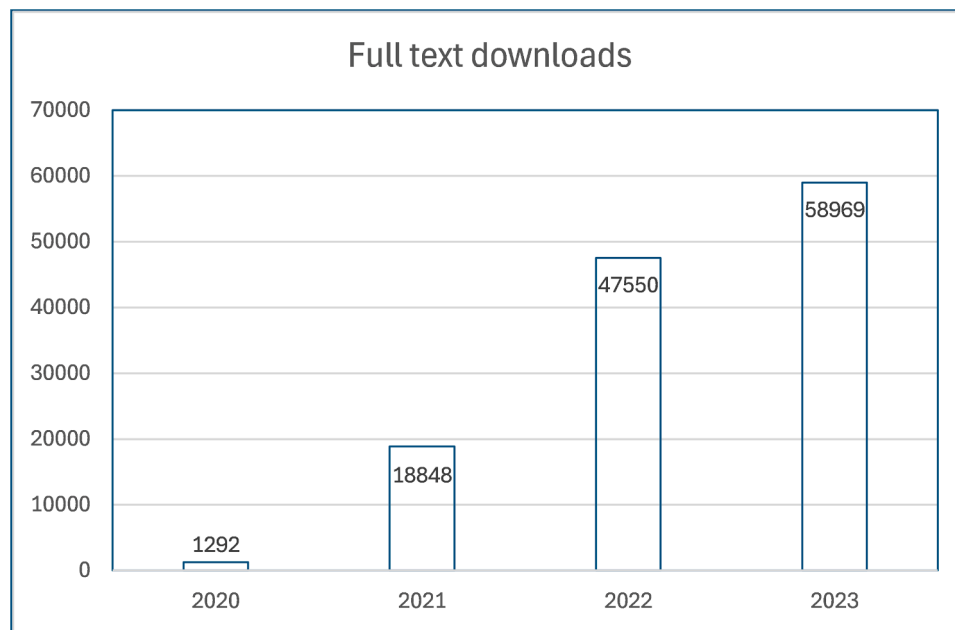


Fig. 1. Full text usage of CCCB articles per year. Total full text downloads for 2020: 1292; for 2021: 18,848; for 2022: 47,550; for 2023: 58,969. Data derived from ScienceDirect.

published papers in CCCB between 2020 and 2023 (3 in 2020, 33 in 2021, 41 in 2022, 42 in 2023). The earliest were three papers published in 2020 [33,54,55]. The journal currently has an H index of 8, with at least 8 papers having at least 8 citations [4,7,22-24,56-59]. As a comparison, the related journal *Alzheimers & Dementia*, which covers all aspects of dementia, published 265 papers in its first four years 2005–2008 (44, 60, 105, 87 papers, respectively).

We are proud of the academic stature and diversity in our editorial board. There are 27 editorial board members (7 female, 20 male) located across 16 countries (see the Editorial Board website: www.sciencedirect.com/journal/cerebral-circulation-cognition-and-behavior/about/editorial-board). We are also proud of the academic standards of reviewing. As of August 2024 there have been in total 146 papers accepted, 48 rejected, 14 withdrawn, 2 transferred. If we exclude withdrawn and transferred manuscripts, the average percentage rejected is 25 %. For the calendar year 2023 the rejection rate was 31 %. As an unwritten policy, the chief editors (AW and AHH) seek to encourage submitting authors to revise their manuscripts, to a stage where they can be accepted.

We urge colleagues to send us their manuscripts. All corresponding authors should check for possible publishing deals, waivers or discounts on the author publication charge, via the Elsevier website: <https://www.elsevier.com/en-gb/open-access/agreements>. Interested colleagues should also consider joining the CCCB LinkedIn group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9126074/>

We aspire to see the JIF grow substantially. CCCB is a young journal and VCID is a major research field. There is every reason to expect CCCB to thrive, while maintaining high academic standards for reviewing and editing. We hope to see CCCB become established as the journal of choice for studies of disorders or conditions at the interface of cognitive, cerebrovascular and neuronal functions.

Funding

Hainsworth has received funding from the UK Medical Research Council (MR/R005567/1, MR/T033371/1), British Heart Foundation (PG/20/10,397, SP/F/22/150,042), UK Alzheimer's Society (AS-DTC-23-004) and Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (Grant Ref. 20,140,901). Wallin received funding from the Swedish state under

the agreement between the Swedish government and the county councils, the ALF-agreement (ALFGBG-720,661) and the Konung Gustaf V:s och Drottning Victorias Frimurarestiftelse.

The funding sources had no involvement in the writing of the text or in the decision to submit the article for publication.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Atticus H Hainsworth: Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Riccardo Paracampo:** Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing. **Anders Wallin:** Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing.

Declaration of competing interest

Hainsworth leads MRC-Dementias Platform UK Vascular Experimental Medicine group and was Chief Investigator on the PASTIS trial. He has received honoraria from Eli Lilly and NIA and serves as a scientific consultant for Aribio Inc. He is a member of the VasCog executive committee and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of CCCB.

Paracampo is a salaried employee of Elsevier.

Wallin is Editor-in-Chief of CCCB.

All the claims stated here come from the various authors' personal opinions and reflections. The text in this article is in no sense official or legally binding.

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