

# Letter From the Editors of *Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine*

We are pleased with the enthusiastic response we received following the inaugural issue of *Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine*. Our goal was to provide an easy-to-read, up-to-date review of important and breaking issues in cardiology for the practicing cardiologist. We hope to continue to improve and enhance the journal, and we welcome your feedback.

In this issue, Drs Mody and Faxon review unstable angina, which has been the focus of many research investigations during the past 10 years. These studies of unstable angina have resulted in a better understanding of how to risk-stratify patients; provided new drugs for treatment, particularly the glycoprotein IIb/IIIa agents; and outlined the role of interventional therapy. While this review is comprehensive, it is not exhaustive, and for readers who require more information, we refer you to the new American College of Cardiology (ACC)/American Heart Association Guidelines on Unstable Angina, edited by Dr Eugene Braunwald, which will be published shortly in *Circulation* and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Also in this issue, Dr Rory Hachamovitch begins a 2-part series on risk assessment of patients with known or suspected coronary disease using stress myocardial perfusion single-photon emission CT (SPECT). This is an excellent overview of a complex topic. The subject is critically important for clinicians to comprehend in deciding who should undergo SPECT imaging and what the predictive value of this test is. The role of anorectic agents, such as "phen-fen" and dexfenfluramine, in the development of valvular heart disease and pulmonary hypertension is covered by Gross and Lepor.

The literature reviews feature key papers in the field. Our editors have taken great care in choosing clinically relevant topics and have provided their interpretation of each article. In this issue, the importance of microvascular flow in acute myocardial infarction, the role of the angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor ramipril on long-term outcome in high-risk patients, and the vascular effects of estrogen replacement therapy are discussed.

We have again included highlights of important meetings; in this issue, Dr Douglas Packer discusses important findings that were presented at the recent meeting of the North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology, Dr Robert Vogel provides an update on cardiac surgery from the ACC Cardiovascular Conference at Snowmass, and Dr Natesa Pandian presents the evolving advances discussed at the Scientific Sessions of the American Society of Echocardiography. Finally, Drs Chaudhuri and Izzo illustrate key clinical issues in a case review of a patient exhibiting insulin resistance and hypertension.

The full text of the journal is on the Web site at [www.medreviews.com](http://www.medreviews.com). We hope this issue is as well received as our first, and we look forward to your continuing support.

