

## EDITOR'S LETTER

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Dear Colleagues:

It is our pleasure to bring you another issue of *Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine*. These are interesting times, because the future of medicine as we know it in the United States is uncertain. Unfortunately, there is a power shift taking place that, unless countered, will leave the leadership of our profession in the hands of bureaucrats and administrators. In my view, we have allowed this to happen because we continue to spend too little time (and money) taking an active role in the political process and too much time whining about what some feel are inevitable changes. By not being actively involved in the political processes that take place at the local level in hospitals where you care for your patients, or in your state and national capital, you let others fill the void. Your interests and the interests of your patients are often not the primary motivation of these individuals. Whether you are an academic, a staff physician, or in private practice, I suspect you will not be insulated from the changes that are in the making; however, we must as a profession and as individual physicians step up and get involved and not wait for others to do what you should and must do. Support those political candidates who are sympathetic to medicine and support political action committees such as the American College of Cardiology Political Action Committee.

Now let's turn to the primary responsibility of *Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine*: to narrow the gap between medical knowledge and medical practice. We are privileged to bring you a variety of submissions from authors around the United States that cover important and interesting topics. Meaghan Beattie and Dr. Michael Lee from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA (Los Angeles, CA) provide a comprehensive review of an important topic in interventional cardiology as they compare the safety and efficacy of drug-eluting stents with bare metal stents in ST-elevation myocardial infarction. Drs. Olga Voroshilovsky and Jay Schapira from the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute (Los Angeles, CA) provide a scholarly review of the role of catheter-based ablation in the treatment of atrial fibrillation compared with medical therapy. As the use of computed tomography becomes increasingly important, cardiovascular imagers must be able to recognize and evaluate noncardiac findings such as pulmonary nodules. Drs. Anil George and Assad Movahed from the Brody School of Medicine (Greenville, NC) provide us with some important insights in their submission. Left ventricular noncompaction is an unusual but important congenital cardiomyopathy that most of us will have to manage at one time or another. We are appreciative of the excellent review by Dr. Timothy Paterick and colleagues from the Mayo Clinic (Jacksonville, FL, and Rochester, MN) and Aurora Medical Center (Milwaukee, WI). A review of the important findings presented at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Scientific Symposium is brought to you by our colleagues at Columbia University and the Cardiovascular Research Foundation (New York, NY). Many of these clinical trials will have an impact on how we practice cardiovascular medicine. A particularly instructive case review is provided by Drs. Biana Trost and Jonathan Halperin from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (New York, NY), dealing with anomalous origin of the left main coronary artery. A superb literature review is also included in this issue, submitted by Drs. Amit Kumar and Christopher Cannon from the University of Massachusetts Medical School (Worcester, MA) and Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA), on the use of ticagrelor, a novel platelet inhibitor in acute coronary syndromes. We thank you for your contributions.

On behalf of my co-editor, Dr. Peter McCullough, we hope you enjoy this issue of *Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine*. We would also like to thank the editorial staff at MedReviews for their efforts.

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Medical Editor  
*Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine*