

Contemporary Issues in the Cath Lab

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We feel fortunate to have been able to assemble this group of gifted thought-leaders to provide our readership of interventional cardiologists with a discussion on some of the most pressing “contemporary issues in the cath lab.” The issues presented here are ones that we deal with daily in caring for our patients, who come with a variety of clinical presentations for percutaneous coronary revascularization. As program co-chairs, we framed the presentations to deal with many issues that can be resolved with a careful and dispassionate evaluation of clinical trial data and with questions that arise as the result of these same clinical trials.

Our educational journey begins at the cellular level and concludes in the Emergency Department. Dr. Joseph P. Ornato of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center describes

the procedural shortcomings that lead to unnecessary delays in reperfusion for patients presenting with acute myocardial infarction. Using successful community models as examples, Dr. Ornato provides us with practical strategies that could overcome delays in reperfusion and thus result in better outcomes for patients. Dr. Norman E. Lepor of The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and attending interventional cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, discusses issues relating to 2 high-risk patient populations: patients with diabetes and those with chronic kidney disease. These groups represent a significant fraction of patients presenting with complications of coronary artery disease. A greater understanding of the "cardiovascular nuances" of these 2 patient populations should lead to improvements in their treatment.

Dr. Dean J. Kereiakes of The Heart Center of Greater Cincinnati, The

Lindner Center at The Christ Hospital, and The Ohio State University Department of Medicine and Division of Cardiology, Columbus, OH, is a pioneer in the field of coronary interventions and interventional pharmacology. Dr Kereiakes describes the effects of glycoprotein (GP) IIb/IIIa inhibitors on vascular inflammation, coronary microcirculation, and platelet function. The class of GP IIb/IIIa inhibitors is much more heterogeneous in terms of mechanism of action and pharmacokinetics than is generally appreciated, and this may have clinical implications. A focus on the treatment of ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) is led by Dr. David E. Kandzari of the Duke Clinical Research Institute at the Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Kandzari provides a comprehensive data-based presentation of treatment options for the STEMI patient.

Dr. Steven R. Steinhubl of the Gill Heart Institute, University of

Kentucky, one of the leading clinical investigators in the field of interventional cardiology, describes the ISAR-REACT-2 trial and its positive implications for the use of abciximab in the treatment of patients with acute coronary syndromes. Finally, we are excited to have the contribution from Drs. Paul A. Gurbel and Udaya S. Tantry of the Sinai Center for Thrombosis Research at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. Drs. Gurbel and Tantry take an incredibly complicated subject such as platelet physiology and relate it in clinically relevant terms, providing the basis for understanding the role of platelets in post-stenting ischemic events, as well as the potential clinical application of platelet function assessments.

We hope that we hit the mark by identifying some of the most important "contemporary issues in the cath lab" and providing a meaningful, objective, and useful discussion of these topics. ■