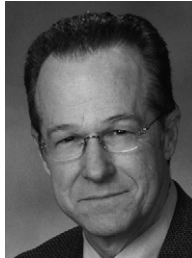


Foreword



Michael H. Crawford, MD
Consulting Editor

Cardiology Clinics has a long tradition of keeping its readers up-to-date on technological advances in cardiology diagnostics. Recently we have done issues on CT angiography, contrast echocardiography and MRI. This issue focuses on 3D echocardiography. It is guest edited by three of the leaders in the field, Drs. Edward Gill, Roberto Lang and Navin Nanda. Each editor is from a different academic medical center, so this issue is well balanced. The issue starts with articles on the development and technology behind 3D echo, then launches into 14 articles on specific uses. Most of the articles deal with the three major uses of 3D echocardiography, imaging the left ventricle, cardiac valves and congenital heart disease. Finally, there is an article on using 3D echocardiography to guide intracardiac therapy.

3D echocardiography is used in most large academic medical centers now, and its use is spreading as commercially available machines are being bought to replace older models. The

articles in this issue focus on the well-established uses of 3D echo, but there is much more to learn. Other uses that were not discussed because there are little data about them include the assessment of cardiac masses, aneurysms and pseudoaneurysms. Also, we have much more to learn about the utility of three-dimensional color flow imaging. I expect this to be a growing field that competes with 3D reconstruction of MR and CT images of the heart. This issue of *Cardiology Clinics* will get you up to speed in this important area.

Michael H. Crawford, MD
*Division of Cardiology
Department of Medicine
University of California
San Francisco Medical Center
505 Parnassus Avenue, Box 0124
San Francisco, CA 94143-0124, USA*

E-mail address: crawfordm@medicine.ucsf.edu