

Foreword



Michael H. Crawford, MD
Consulting Editor

Over the years the pendulum has swung between procedures/devices and drugs for the treatment of cardiovascular disease. We are just emerging from a long period of dominance of percutaneous interventions, stents, closure devices, implanted electrophysiologic devices, ablation, ventricular assist devices and minimally invasive surgery. New trials such as COURAGE are demonstrating the power of established drug therapy, and several promising new agents are now approved or close to being approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA is reorganizing to meet the challenge of recent complications from drugs, and proposing laws to impose more reasonable expectations for drug-related tort cases. In this milieu it seemed timely to review some of the newer pharmacologic agents and targeted disease areas for which newer drugs have made a big impact.

I was delighted that Dr. JoAnne Foody agreed to guest edit this issue. Dr. Foody is a general cardiologist whose practice emphasizes cardiovascular disease prevention. She has assembled a stellar group of experts to contribute to this issue of *Cardiology Clinics*.

Many of our new pharmacologic agents are designed for primary or secondary prevention. Truly successful prevention would eliminate the need for procedures and devices. Since cardiovascular

disease is a world-wide problem now, drugs make a lot more sense for developing countries than do procedures and devices.

There are two types of articles in this issue: those that discuss a specific drug or family of drugs and those that discuss new pharmacologic approaches to specific diseases. The former includes articles on angiotension receptor blockers, direct renin inhibitors, cholesterol ester transfer protein inhibitors, niacin plus laropiprant, cyclooxygenase inhibitors, ranolazine, dipeptidyl peptidase-4, anticoagulants and prasugrel. Discussed disease areas include heart failure, coronary artery disease and hypertension. This issue will be of immense practical value to those in the front lines of cardiovascular disease prevention and management.

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 (M.H. Crawford)