Sir Magdi Yacoub has performed more transplants than any other surgeon in the world and, as a scientist, his interest in the basic mechanisms of heart structure and function in health and disease has improved transplant surgery and patient care. He retired from the NHS in September 2001, but continues to head his research programme at Harefield Hospital, which he sees as, “treating patients in the future.” Sir Magdi was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1999. He is currently Chair of the Role Models Project.

**Why did the society award this fellowship?**
Magdi Yacoub was born and raised in Cairo where he qualified as a doctor in 1957. He came to Britain in 1962 and since then has made pioneering strides in cardiothoracic surgery. Under his leadership, Harefield Hospital became the country’s leading transplant centre,
performing over 200 operations a year. Madgi specialised in working with children with congenital heart defects and performed complex operations on the tiny hearts of babies in their first days of life. In a career spanning over four decades, Madgi has been involved in a number of firsts. He was involved in the first UK heart transplant, performed the first UK live lobe lung transplant and the first ever domino operation, in which one patient with failing lungs is given a new heart and lungs, with a second patient receiving the first patients fully functioning heart.

He has always combined surgical work with scientific research, which he sees as the key to improving patient care and ultimately eliminating heart disease. He has conducted research looking into organ rejection after transplantation and is working to produce a tissue-engineered aortic heart valve.

“Operating on patients with heart disease leads you to ask, why did this organ go wrong in the first place and what can we learn about the basic mechanisms of the heart that can help us understand heart failure better,” says Madgi. “There is a massive amount of heart disease in this country and elsewhere - we are almost flooded - wouldn’t it be great if we could abolish it completely or, at least, reduce the number of people affected. My research is driven by the search to find answers to patients’ problems. The more you look into a problem, like heart failure, the more you find. Heart transplants were regarded as pie in the sky when I started out in medicine. Research is a chance to help treat the patients of the future.”

**How has this work helped society?**

Magdi Yacoub’s work is all about helping people live longer and more fulfilling lives and describes “seeing people who are not well getting so much better” as the most satisfying part of his job. His strong sense of social responsibility led him to establish the Chain of Hope charity, which sends teams of medics to the developing world to treat children suffering from heart disease free of charge. With all the knowledge we have scientifically, we have a responsibility to help,” he says. Magdi is personally involved in the charity’s missions and had just returned from Mozambique.

As well as treating children, the charity works to build up developing countries capacity to do operations and carry out research themselves. It helped to establish Maputo Heart Institute in Mozambique, which is training doctors and investigating how to treat EMS, a neglected heart disease. This disease affects up to 15% of children and young adults and leads to premature death. The charity also brings promising doctors from Mozambique to the UK for further training. Similarly 2 or 3 children from the developing world come to London for operations each month.

“The charity is called a Chain of Hope, because of the chain of people involved in the work we do - people donating money, people acting as host families for children and people donating their medical expertise,” Magdi says.

**What current areas of research are being investigated?**

Magdi’s team of 75 scientists are looking at new ways they can improve heart transplantation and repair damaged hearts. One emerging area is stem cell research. Stem cells are the master cells of the body and have the ability to develop into specific kinds of cells, such as heart cells. Magdi hopes that they can be used to help the damaged heart regenerate itself and repair its own function. Currently, his team is creating heart cells in the lab. Clinical trials will be needed before stem cells can be a part of everyday patient care, but nevertheless believes that the future for this technology “could be near”.

He is also researching techniques to improve the treatment of valvular heart disease. Valves guard the entrances and exits of the two pumping chambers of the heart and a disease or damaged valve can affect the flow of blood and put extra strain on the heart. Magdi is exploring whether tissue engineering can be used to restore valve function.

Some work is also being carried out on xenotransplantation. However, Magdi has reservations about this area. “There are still ethical problems about the risk of introducing new infections, which could be very dangerous to mankind,” he says. “There is a type of virus in the genome of the pig that could have a devastating impact if it crossed over to humans.”

**Why did you decide to get involved in the Royal Society’s Role Models project?**

Magdi is chairing a Royal Society project looking at how effective role models are in changing young people’s view about science and engineering. The aim of this project is to produce best practice guidelines and advice for organizations working in science education.

“I got involved in this project because I’m conscious of the fact there is a massive amount of intellect that we need to look after. I know from interacting with young researchers in my own lab, how excited and enthused young people can be about science. This enthusiasm needs to be encouraged as it contributes to the intellectual power in the community.”

Indeed, Magdi knows first-hand how experiences early in life can make a lasting impression. He decided to become a heart surgeon as a young boy. His father was a general surgeon in Egypt and he was fascinated by the work he did. He was drawn to heart surgery, in particular, after the death of his youngest aunt – who died of mitral stenosis (a narrowing of the heart valve), a correctable heart condition. “She was very young, in her twenties, and I was left with the impression that she didn’t need to die. This motivated me to become a heart surgeon,” he says.

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Editor's note: Fellows from all over the world voted and by a close result, Dr. James Willerson was elected for the position of President-Elect July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011 and then President from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014. The photograph below was taken in Winnipeg when the late Hon. Peter Liba (then the Queen’s representative as Lieutenant-Governor for Manitoba) presented the Academy’s Medal of Merit for his lifetime of exceptional accomplishments in 2004.

James Willerson is Academy’s President-Elect!

Dr. James T. Willerson was born in Lampasas, Texas, and is the President of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston where he is the Alkek-Williams Distinguished Professor and holds the Edward Randall III Chair in Internal Medicine. Dr. Willerson will assume the presidency of Texas Heart Institute August 1, 2008. He holds the Dunn Chair in Cardiology Research and the John O’Quinn Chair named the “James T. Willerson Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Research,” both at the Texas Heart Institute, Houston, Texas.

From 1989 through 2000, he was the Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston where an Annual Lectureship has been established in his name. During this same period, he served as the Chief of Medical Services at Memorial Hermann Hospital. He is also the Medical Director, Director of Cardiovascular Research, and Co-Director of the Cullen Cardiovascular Research Laboratories at the Texas Heart Institute. He is an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Dr. Willerson is a graduate of the Texas Military Institute in San Antonio, Texas, where he was the Battalion Commander, President of the Senior Class, Editor of the school newspaper, and a state swimming champion. He attended The University of Texas in Austin, graduating as a Phi Beta Kappa, member of the Texas Cowboys, and where he lettered for three years in varsity swimming. Upon graduating as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, he completed his medical and cardiology training as an intern, resident, and research and clinical fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and as a Clinical Associate at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

He is the former Chairman of the National American Heart Association Research Committee and of the Cardiovascular and Renal Study Section of the National Institutes of Health. He has received the Award of Merit from the American Heart Association and has served as a member of the Board of Directors and Steering Committee of the National American Heart Association. Before coming to The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Dr. Willerson was Professor of Medicine and Director of the Cardiology Division at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, and Director and Principal Investigator of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute’s Specialized Center of Research under a major grant from the NIH. Upon his departure, the “James T. Willerson, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases” was established at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Willerson has served as visiting professor and invited lecturer at more than 220 institutions worldwide. He has received numerous national and international awards, including the “James B. Herrick Award” from the American Heart Association in 1993; the American College of Cardiology’s Distinguished Scientist Award in 2000; the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Scientific Councils of the American Heart Association in 2002; and the American Heart Association’s Distinguished Scientist Award in 2003. He was the recipient of the Gold Heart Award, the American Heart Association’s highest award in April 2005. He has been elected a Fellow in the Royal Society of Medicine of the United Kingdom and made an Honorary Member of the Societies of Cardiology in Peru in 1994 and in Spain in 1996, the Hellenic Society of Cardiology in Greece in 1997, the Society of Cardiology of Venezuela in 2000, and the Chilean Society of Cardiology in 2004. He is a member and past President of the Paul Dudley White Cardiology Society at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. In June of 2004, Dr. Willerson received the Medal of Merit for Distinguished Achievements in Cardiovascular Sciences by the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. In 2005, he received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” presented at the 17th Annual Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Scientific Symposium on behalf of the Cardiovascular Research Foundation in Washington, DC. In 2006, Dr. Willerson received the Libin Award in Cardiovascular Research in Alberta, Canada; the “Living Legend Award” for achievement in cardiovascular research from the 16th World Congress of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons in Ottawa, Canada, and the...
“Most Outstanding Cardiologist, 2006” award from the Cardiovascular Society and Medical School of Shanghai, China. In October, 2007, Dr. Willerson was awarded the prestigious Lewis Katz for Cardiovascular Research prize by the Columbia University Medical Center. In June of 2008, he was elected President of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences

He has served on many editorial boards for professional publications: The New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Circulation, Circulation Research, Arteriosclerosis and Thrombosis, American Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American College of Cardiology, American Journal of Cardiology, American Heart Journal, and Cardiovascular Medicine. From 1993 to 2004, he was the longest-serving Editor of Circulation, the major publication of the American Heart Association. In 1998, the monthly journal was converted to a weekly publication and attained the highest Impact Factor of any cardiology journal in the world. He has edited or co-edited twenty-four textbooks, including the Third Edition of Cardiovascular Medicine which was released in February of 2007. Additionally, he has published more than 850 scientific articles.

He has been elected to membership in numerous professional societies, including the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the Association of Professors of Medicine, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Baylor College of Medicine in 1998 and a Distinguished Alumnus of The University of Texas at Austin in 1999. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and was awarded the most prestigious Medal of Merit of the Academy in 2004.

His recent research work has concentrated on elucidating mechanisms responsible for the conversion from stable to unstable coronary heart disease syndromes, the prevention of unstable angina and acute myocardial infarction, the detection and treatment of unstable atherosclerotic plaques, and the discovery of the genes and abnormal proteins responsible for cardiovascular disease. In 2001, he and his colleagues at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston and at the Hospital Procardico in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, began bone marrow-derived stem cell transplantation directly into the hearts of patients with severe heart failure. He and his colleagues have demonstrated objective and subjective evidence of clinical improvement, enhanced blood flow, and improved contractile function in the hearts of these patients. In May 2004, the work was expanded to the Texas Heart Institute and St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas, and represents the first FDA-approved trial of its kind in the United States.

Upon moving to Houston in 1989, Dr. Willerson created the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, a basic and clinical research effort devoted to the discovery of genes and proteins that cause the human diseases of our time. It is his strong conviction that from these discoveries will come the knowledge to predict, prevent, and cure heart disease, high blood pressure, strokes, aneurysms, heart attacks, and the deleterious effects of aging. The Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) has made great progress in the discovery of very important genes. Dr. Willerson also founded TexGen Research, a collaboration which brings together all of the institutions in the Texas Medical Center to collect blood samples necessary for the discovery of those genes and proteins that play a key role in causing the major diseases of our time. With TexGen, each Texas Medical Center institution obtains blood samples from patients who have a personal or family history of cardiovascular disease, stroke, dementia, or selected cancers and who are admitted to their hospitals. Great progress is being made by this collaborative biomedical research effort.

Dr. Willerson and his colleagues have received thirteen patents related to their work in coronary heart disease and detecting vulnerable plaques. Dr. Willerson has been a founder of two biotechnology companies that are now traded publicly, Encysive and Volcano.

Finally, Dr. Willerson has been recognized as an “Outstanding Teacher” at both The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas and The University of Texas Medical School at Houston and as one of the most outstanding cardiologists in Texas and the United States in numerous publications and by both local and national organizations.

Dr. Willerson has stated: “I wish to help the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences in every manner that I can. To further the international outreach of the Academy, I would focus on programs that could help countries in their efforts to develop meaningful cardiovascular research through the development of state-of-the-art research experience for their best potential cardiovascular scientists by identifying sites for their training world-wide, conducting state-of-the-art symposia to introduce primary advances in translational cardiovascular research for disease prevention, and developing seminars with updates of such research advances in Winnipeg and other major cities in the world. Enhancing research training, developing meaningful programs for selection of research scientists and monitoring their progress, and translating advances into the care of patients are essential to developing a research enterprise that helps countries wishing to enhance their capabilities in improving cardiovascular care for patients.”

**“Advances in Cardiometabolic Research – Basic Science and Clinical Aspects” • February 2-5, 2009**

**Website:** [http://www.rbfsymposium.net](http://www.rbfsymposium.net)

**Venue:** Zydus Research Center
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REMEMBERING SOMEONE SPECIAL

Editor’s note: As we were assembling this issue, we heard the sad news of the passing of Dr. Michael DeBakey. We are disappointed that we will not celebrate his 100th birthday but our 2nd Symposium on the FUTURE OF HEART HEALTH will celebrate his extraordinary life! We plan to produce a Special Edition of CV Network for which we are accumulating personal reflections on Dr. DeBakey – we invite all of his friends to submit their article electronically to ivan@mts.net

When I heard of Dr. Debakey’s passing, I sent the following note to his sister Lois and feel it is appropriate to share: “It is an amazing world. The first news of Dr. DeBakey I heard on Saturday was an e-mail from my daughter Niki in Greece. And immediately I opened the news that my granddaughter Esha has a sister born at 7:30 AM. So Shreya will always be another special grandchild but I will reflect that maybe she bears a little spirit from your beloved brother. It is almost trite to say that he made this world a better place – what a life for 99 full years – but I know he made me a better person and more committed to Heart Health in his memory. With love and great affection to you and all the family. Ivan”

Rather than try to find the appropriate words to describe his incredible life, I have chosen to reprint the report from CV Network, Vol. 2, No. 1, February 2003 and use Dr. DeBakey’s own words.

“Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen”

My first thought, of course, is to express my very humble and grateful appreciation for the high honour of the Medal of Merit and Honoury Fellowship awarded me by the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and the Honoury Citizenship of Winnipeg and the presentations to me by His Honour, Lt-Gov. Peter Liba and by the Honourable Glen Murray. I have long admired Canadians and have enjoyed their gracious hospitality over many years. Tonight, I was inspired by the Awards that were presented to the scientists and the emphasis given to research and I had the opportunity today to observe the ongoing research in a laboratory at the St. Boniface Research Centre Cardiovascular Institute. To me, this is perhaps the best characteristic of a society that seeks to improve its civilization. Throughout history, the human condition has been improved through new knowledge. The new knowledge created through research makes life better for each generation. You can be sure of one thing: there will be no new knowledge unless investigations are allowed to flourish. All new knowledge that has been created throughout history has derived from research in one form or another, largely through the innate sense of curiosity that we have and that is especially active in the minds of researchers.

In my long life, I have had extensive experience within cardiovascular field, and the progress that has been made in the last half century in this specialty probably exceeds all of previous time. When I was a medical student and a resident many years ago, a patient who had a heart attack and was admitted to the hospital had about a 50/50 chance of leaving the hospital alive. There was very little that we could do and the patient’s outcome was probably more in the hands of God than it was in our hands. Today, patients with the same condition being admitted to Canadian hospitals, and to those in the United States, have a better than 95% chance of leaving the hospital, not only alive, but returning to a reasonably normal life. And that is directly attributable to research. When I was a resident I stayed by the bedside of a patient dying of a ruptured aneurysm of the aorta. Nothing could be done for him at that time, but today a curative operation is routine. Again, all because of research. Every means that we now have that is effective in the field of cardiovascular health in restoring circulation and returning to productive life a patient with a deadly form of cardiovascular disease is the result of research. And that is why I said I was so inspired by the scientific research being conducted here in Winnipeg, in Manitoba, as evidenced by what I saw in the laboratories and what I heard in the lectures today.

I would also like to express my grateful appreciation for the opportunity of being here with you and for the honours accorded me by the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences as well as to express my admiration and commendation for your support and for your activities in the field of research.
After her great success hosting a meeting in Antalya, Turkey in 2005, Belma Turan has been anxious to create an even better event in Istanbul and she did it! With Co-chair Vladimir Smirnov from Russia, Belma hosted more than 80 delegates from 24 countries for NATO-Russia Advanced Research Workshop by NATO and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), which was a meeting to enable a small group of experts to make a critical assessment of existing knowledge on new important topics, and identify directions for future research. The purpose of a NATO ARW is to contribute to the critical assessment of existing knowledge on new important topics, to identify directions for future research, and to promote close working relationships between scientists from different countries and with different professional experience. A NATO ARW is not an international conference or symposium but rather a forum for advanced level, intensive discussions between qualified experts from different countries, and often from different research sectors. This Advanced Research Workshop is intended to discuss and better understand the mechanisms involved in stress signaling, adaptation, and protection against stress conditions. Workshop focused on:

- The complexity of heart function
- Molecular basis of heart diseases
- The complexity of metabolic syndrome
- The complexity of heart diseases
- Genetic manipulation of mammalian heart
- Nanobiotechnology: stem cells for cardiac diseases
- Finding targets for heart failure therapy
- Usage of multiphoton confocal technology in cardiac research field (will be held technical application with a multiphoton confocal microscopy)

Included among the speakers were Academy Fellows: Krishna Agrawal, Deepak Das, Naranjan Dhalla, Ramesh Goyal, Frantisek Kolar, Gary Lopaschuk, Dennis McNamara, Boja Ostadal, Wagner Pádua, Grant Pierce, Stephen Schaffer, Enn Seppet, Pawan Singal, Jan Slezak, Vladimir Smirnov, Belma Turan, Guy Vassort and Karl Werdan; and Nilanjana Maulik.

The highlight of the meeting was the announcement of the pledge of $100,000 by Dr. Nilanjana Maulik for setting up an endowment for a Young Investigator Award. Nilanjana has accepted the invitation to serve as the Academy Director of Health Research. In the spirit of promoting collaboration and exchanges for students and post docs, Dr. Adriana Adameova from the Slovak Republic, whom we met in Istanbul, has just arrived in Winnipeg to be a Visiting Scientist in Dr. Dhalla’s lab.

Upon conclusion of the formal sessions, Belma organized a memorable dinner-cruise on the Borphorus through Istanbul.

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The Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

co-sponsors the annual Southern Regional Meeting along with the SAFMR, SSPR, SSGIM, and APA. Beginning in 2007, the North American Chapter of the International Academy for Cardiovascular Sciences has joined the meeting.

February 12-14, 2009
Intercontinental Hotel
New Orleans, LA
for details, please visit:

IACS-NA has developed two awards:
• Young Clinician Scientist Award
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Send letter to Karl Weber at ktweber@utmemedu
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GENES AND THE HEART
from bench to bedside

Joint Meeting of the Japan and European Sections
of the International Academy
of Cardiovascular Sciences

September 24 – 27, 2008
Conference Centre of the Academy of Sciences
Château Liblice, Czech Republic

www.mendel08.cz
We began to dream about a meeting in the Middle East during the World Congress in Winnipeg in 2001 when we first met Said Khatib from Amman, Jordan. Subsequently, we talked further with Said at meetings in Belo Horizonte, New Orleans, Bologna and when he returned to Winnipeg for the Global Conference in 2006. When he visited us again last October, we confirmed plans for an International Symposium on Myocardial Protection – From Lab to Man. It was held in Irbid and Amman, May 20-21, 2008. And what a kick-off...

Not only were all of the 500 seats filled but others sat in the aisles, stood and, sadly, 2-300 were turned away! The Opening Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Naranjan Dhalla. Said arranged for excellent media coverage.

We were welcomed by President Wajih Owies of the Irbid host Jordan University of Science & Technology.

Other speakers included (shown in back row L to R) Ivan Berkowitz (Canada), Rakesh Kukreja (USA), Max Lab (UK), Pawan Singal (Canada), Dipak Das, Anwar Abdel Fattah (USA), Stephen Schaffer (USA), Gary Lopaschuk (Canada), Dennis McNamara (USA), as well as Mahmoud Abeleeh (Jordan) and Sa’adeh Suleiman (UK).
While in Jordan, our host Said arranged for unforgettable experiences. Like Moses, we went to the peak of Mount Nebo and viewed (above) but did not visit the Promised Land.

After touring the ancient city of Umqais we were able to gaze (above left) upon the northern tip of Jordan in the foreground, the Golan Heights and to the (lower left) Lake Kinneret and Israel.

What it’s all about

We regretted that a last-minute emergency kept Sir Magdi Yacoub from attending the recent meeting in Jordan. Particularly disappointed was Ahmed Al-Shamma who is shown in the photo with Said Khatib’s wife Ruba. Ahmed is now a Pharmacist who graduated from Baghdad College of Pharmacy. Fleeing Iraq through Syria, Ahmed and his mother were able to join his father who is a PhD Pharmacology at Amman University. In 1985, when he was 2, he was cyanosed from birth and Sir Magdi Yacoub inserted his right Blalock Shunt. In 1988, Ahmed underwent total correction by insertion of a homograft valve from the right ventricular to the pulmonary artery. Apparently he has been well for the last 20 years.

As Sir Magdi said in 2006 when he met in Winnipeg a young woman whose life-saving surgery was only the third use of a new technique in 1989, “Sometimes you wonder when you are working so hard – what’s it all about? And then you see something like this – my God, it’s fantastic!”

A Satellite Meeting of JIC, Surat 2008
Translational Research in Cardiovascular Sciences:
From Bench to Bedside and Vice Versa
December 11, 2008
Venue: The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Chairman: Dr. O. D. Gulati, MD Organizing Secretaries: Dr. R. Balaraman, Ph.D Dr. Adeesh Jain, MS
Contact: Prof. Ramesh K. Goyal, Ph.D, FIACS, Vice-Chancellor
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Fatehgunj, VADODARA 390002, INDIA
Phone: +912652795600, Fax: +912652793693, e-mail : goyalrk@rediffmail.com; goyalrk@msubaroda.ac.in
Joint International Conference of
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HEART RESEARCH
(Indian Section)
and
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES
(Indian Section)

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Speakers :
Dipak Das, USA
Morris Karmazyn, Canada
Nilanjana Maulik, USA
Grant Pierce, Canada
Stephen Schaffer, USA
Pawan K. Singal, Canada
Madhu-Anand Srivastava, Canada
V. Gopalkrishna, Canada
K. C. Agrawal, USA
Ramesh K. Goyal, India
Shailendra K. Vajpeyee, India
Shyamal Goswami, India
Onkar N. Tripathi, India
Keyur Parikh, India
Naranjan S. Dhalla, Canada
Sukhinder Kaur, Canada
Jamal Mustafa, USA
Delfin Rodriguez Leyva, Cuba
M. A. Q. Siddiqui, USA
John H. McNeil, Canada
Ashok Srivastava, Canada
V. Smirnov, Russia
N. K. Ganguly, India
K. K. Talwar, India
Madhu Khullar, India
Ajai Nayak, India
Shyam S. Agrawal, India
Suresh K. Gupta, India
Suresh Tyagi, USA
CREATIVITY in MEDICINE and afterwards

by Babeth Rabinowitz, Moshav Shoeva, Israel

When Ivan Berkowitz asked all of us to contribute a paper on our achievements as cardiovascular scientists, I thought that perhaps a different angle will be appropriate in my case. I am a clinical cardiologist with a strong interest in research. I was born in Romania at the start of the Second World War. After the Nazis and Communists persecutions, my parents and I were allowed to pass the Iron Curtain in 1960. I completed my medical studies in Jerusalem Hebrew University and specialized in Internal Medicine in Shaarei Zedek and Hadassah Hospitals. Married to a physician and with 3 young boys, we traveled in 1970 to the United States for our second specialization; mine in Cardiology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in L.A. With the unusual opportunity to be guided by Drs. Swan, Parmley, Chatterjee and Ganz, I initiated, along with my clinical fellowship duties, a research program of my own. The first step was a series of biochemical/physiological animal studies performed across the street from the hospital building, to be later linked to clinical investigations. My first puzzle: the role of adrenergic receptors through the second messenger – cyclic AMP- in ischemia and complicated infarction. Being the only female cardiology fellow in that highly regarded institution and daring to start my own line of research was a bit unusual, but I was given 2 days a week and 2,000 USD for laboratory materials, to prove that I really meant it. Jo Katz, an excellent biochemist, and his experienced technician George Bonorris taught me, in addition to making American percolated and genuine Greek (not “Turkish”) coffee, paper electrophoresis and in vitro tissue work. At the end of the “trial” period, I presented at the Research in Progress meeting the new method of a cyclic AMP assay, commercially unavailable at that time and an outline of my cardiology future research. Jeremy Swan commented: “This is creativity in Medicine”. In October 1973, 2 weeks before the Yom Kippur war, our family returned to Israel, after a fruitful 3 years in the States. The beginning in Tel Hashomer consisted of several weeks of round the clock work in the CCU, with a skeleton staff composed of people not mobilized at the front. However, since the beginning of 1974, I was back on track, treating patients and doing research. The following are topics of cardiovascular research in which I was personally involved, initiating and supervising studies:

- myocardial ischemia and infarction in vitro and in vivo;
- correlation between effects on cardiac muscle force and adenyl cyclase activity (of adrenergic agents, hydralazine and other drugs);
- acute and chronic pump failure (systolic and/or diastolic);
- hemodynamic and metabolic effects of pharmacological interventions in ischemia/infarction (i.e. intravenous nitrates, prostaglandins);
- subsets of myocardial infarction in man (i.e. characterization of the "hyperkinetic subset"-hemodynamics, circulating catecholamines and response to therapy);
- natriuretic peptides (ANP, BNP) in brief ischemia, acute infarction and ischemic cardiomyopathy in animal preparation and in patients;
- eicosanoid synthesis in endocardial versus epicardial tissue, during cardiac ischemia;
- preconditioning by repeated short global and regional cardiac ischemia (isolated heart) and by remote (limb) ischemia in animals;
- adaptation to ischemia (short versus long-term preventive intervention) with a Lactobacillus preparation;
- coronary artery disease in women (i.e. SERM effects) and secondary prevention.

All of us, medical people, clinicians fascinated by basic research, suffer from a condition which in later stages becomes an addiction whose characteristic traits are curiosity, imagination and passion. Looking back to my professional career and ahead at what I am doing now, I am grateful that this weird mixture stuck to me. The drive to research mechanisms of illnesses in order to deal better with patients’ troubles is a sine qua non condition to become a clinician-scientist. It is also necessary to learn the limits of oneself and of one’s profession or speciality and the need to combine efforts to others. The nowadays banal slogan “from the bench to the bedside” was my continuous guide in research and it worked mainly in the reverse way: questions raised at the bedside were translated to research in the lab. However, beside the curiosity about how things work in health and disease, I had also the desire to understand the PEOPLE whom I MET AND TREATED AND FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR. These people, my patients, my coworkers and students, my friends and my family enriched my life. These true relationships protected my inner core and did not let a very demanding profession kill the ability to see beauty and the desire to express it. This wish made me to decide in January 2001, 5 years before the official retirement age, to part completely from my beloved Medicine, to retire before reaching saturation, boredom or frustration, in order to find out if I have other resources of creativity than original scientific thinking, organizational abilities and empathy to the suffering. I always loved nature,
music, books and art, but I did not have enough time for it, neither physical, nor emotional. Now, I plunged into it. Following the example of my multitalented husband (geriatrician, writer and nowadays also poet and sculptor), I started at the age of 61 to make artistic mosaics and 3 years later drawing and painting. I am now fully engaged in these activities, not as a hobby, but as a way of life, perhaps a second career. Although I am aware that at many levels I am still and probably I will always be a dilettante, I succeeded to develop some original techniques and some of the results are interesting. Together with Marian, my husband and partner in the adventure of life, we recently published a 2 volume-album (his poems, some of my art-work and a few of his sculptures), entitled “A Wrinkled Leaf Unfolds… A Moving Wrinkled Leaf”. It is dedicated to our 8 grandchildren.

The book launching was in our home in a small village, near Jerusalem, during the 60th anniversary of Israel. The benefits go to children with special needs.

We live and work in Israel, in the Eolian Islands, in Slovenia and sometimes in Paris and Florence. Although we voluntarily closed the institutional doors to Medicine when we opened the unlocked ones to Arts, Medicine as a concept and a way of life still resides in our souls and remains one of the main sources of inspiration.

NOTE: Dr. Babeth Rabinowitz initiated cooperation between PhD’s and MD’s in cardiovascular research in Israeli and international forums and headed a Cardiac Metabolism Laboratory in Sheba Medical Center Tel Hashomer from 1974 until her retirement from hospital work in 2001. She authored or co-authored over 100 original articles, reviews and chapters in books, organized several scientific meetings and actively participated in many others. She held the following positions:

- Head of Cardiology Department in Sackler Medical School, Tel Aviv University, 1998-2002
- Associate/acting Director of Heart Institute Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, 1979-2001
- President of Israel Heart Society, 2001-2003
- Professor of Cardiology Sackler Medical School, Tel Aviv University, 1996- now Emeritus
- David Halperne Chair of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, Tel Aviv University, first incumbent 1999-2005
- FACC since 1979
- FESC- now Emeritus
- Secretary of Israeli Group for Heart Research, 1979-1989
- Council Member of European Section of ISHR, 1989-1995
- Founder and first chair person of the Working Group of IHS on Experimental Cardiology and Basic Science, 1998-2000
- Senior Cardiologist, in charge of ICCU and Intermediate CCU, Heart Institute, Sheba Medical Center, 1973-1979.

She was honored in 2002 by the appointment as Fellow of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, under the directorship of N.S. Dhalla and this year became Fellow Emeritus IACS.

Dear Ivan,

We are pleased to inform you that the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences has been accepted as an Associate International member of the World Heart Federation. As a member of the World Heart Federation, your organization will benefit from the following advantages:

A global network
- Access to the premier global network of national societies of cardiology and heart foundations with members from over 100 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East
- Participation in major international initiatives on tobacco, diet and physical activity, obesity, workplace wellness and more
- Special members-only events at the World Congress of Cardiology and other major congresses
- Increased recognition and visibility as an official member of the World Heart Federation

Learn
- Reduced-rate subscriptions to Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine and Prevention and Control scientific journals
- Share the knowledge and experience of our scientific councils, expert panels and demonstration projects
- Exchange best practices and share your areas of expertise with members worldwide
- Members-only training workshops

Act
- Take part in global campaigns such as World Heart Day and Go Red for Women - increase your exposure and coverage and make important contacts
- Free marketing materials and technical assistance
- Media materials - regular press releases and updates on major initiatives
- Access to the members only section of our web site with the above materials and much more

Finally, you will be included in our membership directory, for which we request you to fill out the attached form and return to us at your earliest convenience.

Fees
Your annual membership fee is CHF 1000 per annum. This fee will be waived for your first year of membership (2008).

We are pleased to welcome you to our network and we look forward to our future collaboration.

Sincerely,

Jane Park
Membership Coordinator
World Heart Federation
World Heart Federation I 7, Rue des Battoirs I Case Postale 155 I 1211 Geneva 4 I Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 807 03 20 I Fax: +41 22 807 03 39 I admin@worldheart.org I www.worldheart.org

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Draft Program

Thursday 18 June 2009

Introduction:
13.00-13.30 Welcome and introduction
13.30-14.00 Sudden unexpected arrhythmia death - magnitude of the problem?
14.00-14.30 Sudden expected arrhythmia death - is it a problem?
14.30-15.00 Prevention of sudden arrhythmia death? - overview
15.00-16.00 Posters - Coffee/tea

Genetics and Sudden death:
16.00-16.30 Genemapping and sudden arrhythmia death - overview
16.30-18.30 Three parallel presentations (15 min) based on submitted abstracts
20.00 Visit to Glyptoteket (Classic Art Museum) with Buffet Dinner

Friday 19 June 2009

Prevention:
09.00-09.30 Prevention of sudden arrhythmia death by drugs - overview
09.30-10.00 Prevention of sudden arrhythmia death by devices - overview
10.00-11.00 Exhibition, Posters and coffee/tea
11.00-12.00 Three parallel presentations (15 min) based on submitted abstracts
12.00-13.30 Buffet Lunch, Exhibitions and Posters

Induction:
13.30-14.00 Risk of sudden arrhythmia death as a “drug-stopper” in development of new drugs
14.00-14.30 Proarrhythmia mechanisms - overview
14.30-15.30 Exhibition, Posters and coffee/tea
15.30-17.30 Three parallel presentations (15 min) based on submitted abstracts
17.30-18.00 Looking into the future - overview
17.00 Closing
20.00 An Evening in Tivoli Gardens

For more information, please contact:
Conference Secretariat.
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E-Mail. vanhauen@vanhauen.dk
American Journal of Cardiovascular Drugs

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Manitoba Heart Health Think Tank

An assembly of heart health specialists, researchers, and representatives from interested governmental and non-governmental agencies participated in a five hour Heart Health Think Tank in Winnipeg on April 17th, 2008.

The Heart Health Think Tank was held to help identify and prioritize the opportunities that will make the greatest difference to improving heart health in Manitoba. The goal of the session was: To engage senior representatives from key organizations / sectors with interests in heart health and related matters in the discussion of opportunities for innovative ways to work better together to improve heart health.

**Heart Health Think Tank objectives were:**

- To advance the dialogue among key organizations / sectors on opportunities to work together more effectively.
- To identify priority areas for enhanced focus such as healthy living and chronic disease prevention; public policy; education; primary, secondary and tertiary care (intervention); rehabilitation and palliation; research; population studies; and Aboriginal and rural care.

**Participants were advised that next steps will include:**

- The development of a report on the day’s activities, identified priorities and suggested next steps for review by the Heart Health Strategic Leaders and subsequent distribution to Think Tank participants.
- Immediate discussions with key government stakeholders and other nongovernmental and community organizations in order to further develop excellence in heart health prevention and care.

**Subsequently, meetings were held to develop The Final Report which was structured as follows:**

- A review of the morning session which included opening remarks and small and large group activities focused on generating, categorizing and prioritizing suggestions for measures to improve heart health over the next decade.
- An overview of the results from four working groups which each examined one of four priority categories in more depth. The afternoon activities culminated in a report-back session to the large group.
- A synopsis of closing remarks and next steps It was agreed that the next step will be to create a mapping of the elements affecting heart health in Manitoba.

**Featured Speakers:**

- Back – Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living; Front (L-R)
  - Dr. Joel Kettner, Chief Public Health Officer, Manitoba Health and Healthy Living; Dr. Alan Menkis, Medical Director, WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program; Dr. Pawan Singal, Director, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences; Ms. Debbie Brown, CEO, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba; and Dr. Grant Pierce, Executive Director of Research, St. Boniface General Hospital.

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Under the auspices of the
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SYMPOSIUM VENUE

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E-mail: recepcia@hotelhb.sk

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Our developments for our 2nd Symposium in FUTURE OF HEART HEALTH are exciting. In addition to celebrating the life of Dr Michael DeBakey (1908 - 2008), we have world-class speakers including:

Harold Buchwald Memorial Lecture: Eldon Smith, Calgary, Chair of Canadian Heart Health Strategy and Editor-in-Chief of The Canadian Journal of Cardiology, Calgary “Cardiovascular Disease is Canada’s Number One Public Health Problem; Why We Need a Canadian Heart Health Strategy. A Progress Report.”

Lyall Higginson - President - Canadian Cardiovascular Society, Victoria – “Aboriginal Cardiovascular Health in Canada and How The Heart Health Strategy and Action Plan Can Help.”

Kit Arom - Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon, Bangkok, Thailand – “Stem Cells for Treating Final Stage Heart Failure”

Harvey Chochinov – Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care, Winnipeg – “Dying with Dignity: Nearing the Final Beats”

Benedict Maniscalco – Heartbeat International, Tampa, Florida - “If anyone needs a Pacemaker, we’ll do it”

Shanthi Mendis – Senior Advisor CVD, WHO, Geneva – “Global Heart Health: challenges and opportunities”

Ian Smith – Director General, National Research Council Canada Institute for Biodiagnostics, Winnipeg – “Cardiac Bypass Verification – Student Project to World Class Company: Novadaq”

Doris Taylor – University of Minnesota - “Cells for prevention, treatment and cure of cardiovascular disease: A hope for today and tomorrow”

Paul Wiebe - Director of Business and External Relations, National Research Council Canada Institute for Biodiagnostics, Winnipeg – “Cardiac Bypass Verification – Student Project to World Class Company: Novadaq”

Our plan is for a one-day session on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 in the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre’s Cohen Auditorium

For FREE ADMISSION, please request to: ivan@mts.net