Overview

Despite markedly declining mortality rates from cardiovascular disease across the country, heart disease continues to predominate as the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the State of Missouri and the Saint Louis region. As such, the missions of the cardiology division to care for those afflicted with cardiovascular disease, educate and train the next generations of cardiovascular practitioners, and exploring innovative treatments through research continues to be as important today as it ever has been.

The cardiology division has undergone many changes over the past year in order to fulfill its mission today and into the future. As the new division director, I am attempting to lead this transition in difficult economic times and many changes in the landscape of health care delivery. Despite these potential barriers, the cardiology division should be a source for state-of-the-art cardiac care delivery that specializes in offering patients opportunities that they cannot receive elsewhere. We continue to have a large percentage of our faculty recognized as St Louis Best Doctors. Several of our faculty serve prominent national and international roles as faculty at cardiovascular meetings, reviewers and editorial board members for prominent journals, and authors of multiple peer reviewed journal articles, textbook chapters, and invited reviews. Furthermore, we continue to be recognized by the American Heart Association as high quality providers of care in the areas of heart failure and coronary artery disease by achieving distinguished status in the annual US News and World Report health care issue.

Most important in our transition is the addition of new faculty that have brought considerable expertise to the division. First and foremost among our new faculty is Dr. Ali Mehdirad, who assumes the position of director of electrophysiologic services. Dr. Mehdirad brings considerable technical ability in treating all types of arrhythmias, including catheter-based ablation for atrial fibrillation, sinus-node modification, and ablation for ventricular tachycardias. We have also welcomed the addition of Dr. Lisa Reis as a noninvasive cardiologist, Dr. Bryan Piotrowski as an invasive cardiologist, and Dr. Scott Ferreira as an electrophysiologist.

The Division of Cardiology maintains outpatient offices in the University Club Tower office building on Brentwood Boulevard and in the Des Peres Medical Arts Pavilion. The University Club Tower facility is the flagship of the outpatient facilities and provides a full range of cardiovascular services including radionuclide myocardial perfusion stress testing, diagnostic echocardiograms, stress echocardiograms, arrhythmia management and device monitoring, cardiac rehabilitation, as well as cardiovascular screening visits and programs designed for primary cardiac prevention. The practice at the Des Peres Medical Office Pavilion offers patients access to echocardiographic rest and stress studies.

Furthermore, the division continues to have faculty play key roles in the care of cardiovascular patients at the John Cochran VA Medical Center. The cardiac catheterization lab at the VA remains one of the busiest labs in the entire VA system and was recently honored for their exceptional low rate of complications, a tribute to the dedication of the entire lab. The VA faculty continue play integral roles in the outpatient and inpatient care of our veteran’s cardiovascular needs.

In the area of education, the cardiovascular disease fellowship training program remains strong. Currently, four fellows per year are selected in the basic 3-year program from an applicant pool of over 1,000 residents annually. We recently filled all spots in the June 2011 match, including 3 of our top 10 ranked applicants. In addition, the division maintains an advanced fellowship training program in interventional cardiology. These programs continue remain in good standing and fully accredited by the ACGME.
DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY

On the research front, we continue to participate in national and international studies that investigate innovative therapies to treat coronary artery disease, cardiac arrhythmias, and congestive heart failure. Our faculty have presented numerous studies over the past year at national and international conferences. Furthermore, faculty and fellows of the division have authored more than 35 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters over the past academic year.

We look to continue to grow our expertise in critical areas of cardiology over the next year, especially in congestive heart failure and structural heart disease. In doing so, we will continue to play a large role in attempting to reduce the morbidity and mortality of cardiovascular disease for all patients in the Saint Louis region.

Honors and Recognition

2011 Best Doctors, St. Louis Magazine
Bernard R. Chaitman, MD
Michael Forsberg, MD
Paul J. Hauptman, MD
Michael J. Lim, MD
Alan Maniet, DO
Ali Mehdirad, MD
Megumi Taniuchi, MD

Joshua Stolker, MD
Young Leadership Recognition Program award winner, Cardiovascular Research Technologies (CRT), Washington, DC

Paul Hauptman, MD
Associate Editor, Circulation: Heart Failure
2010-2011 Teacher of the Year Award, Division of Cardiology

Grants and Contracts Held By Each Faculty Member

Bernard Chaitman, MD

UMDNJ / NIH, “Transfusion trigger trial in coronary artery disease: a Pilot Study (MINT),” 2009-2011, $149,700.


NIH, “DMID 08-008, A phase 1, randomized, controlled dosage-escalation study of the safety and reactogenicity of the EP1300 polyepitope DNA vaccine against plasmodium falciparum malaria administered via electroporation to healthy adults,” 2010-2011, $23,039.


Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, “HVTN protocol 205 (cohort 2) and 086 vaccine studies in HIV uninfected vaccinia-naïve adult participants,” 2010-2011, $35,780.
During fiscal year 2011 the Division of Cardiology had 22 active studies with various industry sponsors. Due to confidentiality agreements and non-publicity clauses in contracts with sponsors, specific information pertaining to industry sponsored research may not be released in public documents.

**Faculty**

**Director**
Michael J. Lim, M.D.
Associate Professor

**Professor**
Bernard R. Chaitman, M.D.
Paul J. Hauptman, M.D.
Alan Maniet, D.O.
Ali A. Mehdired, M.D.

**Professor Emeritus**
Jerome Cohen, M.D.
Robert Wiens, M.D.

**Clinical Professor Emeritus**
James Janney, M.D.

**Clinical Professor**
Arthur J. Labovitz, M.D.
Ali Mehdired, M.D.
Hanumanth Reddy, M.D.
Martin Schwarze, D.O.
Richard B. Whiting, M.D.

**Associate Professor**
Joshua Stolker, M.D.
Megumi Taniuchi, M.D.

**Associate Research Professor**
Melda Dolan, M.D.

**Associate Clinical Professor Emeritus**
Manfred Thurmann, M.D.

**Associate Clinical Professor**
Donald Bussmann, M.D.
Jon Cooksey, M.D.
Carey Fredman, M.D.

**Frank Gafford, M.D.**
Paul Gibson, M.D.
Denise Janosik, M.D.
Randy Johnson, M.D.
Robert Potashnick, M.D.
Richard Stewart, M.D.
Donald Voelker, M.D.

**Assistant Professor**
Lisa Reis Alderson, M.D.
Michael Forsberg, M.D.
Andrew Klein, M.D.
Abhay Laddu, M.D.
Robert Neumayr, M.D.

**Adjunct Assistant Professor**
Walter Parham, M.D.
Karen Stocke, M.B.A.
Marie Watanabe, Ph.D., M.D.

**Assistant Clinical Professor Emeritus**
David Gardner, D.O.

**Assistant Clinical Professor**
Naseer Ahmad, M.D.
Bassam Al-Jouindi, M.D.
Tammam Al-Jouindi, M.D.
Nizar Assi, M.D.
Martin Ast, M.D.
Elie Azrak, M.D.
Saad Bitar, M.D.
Duck Chun, M.D.
James Davis, M.D.
Bulent Dincer, M.D.
Amr El-Shafei, M.D.
Leonard Fagan, M.D.
Gregory Gabliani, M.D.
Mary Gamache, M.D.

**David Harshmann, M.D.**
Sultan Hyat, M.D.
Jorge Hernandez, M.D.
John Hogan, M.D.
Raffi Krikorian, M.D.
Mark Lewen, D.O.
Timothy Martin, M.D.
Leslie Mezei, M.D.
Antonio Penilla, M.D.
Khaid Qayum, M.D.
John Radke, M.D.
Jeffrey Reese, M.D.
Michael Schiff, M.D.
Lynne Seacord, M.D.
Harvey Serota, M.D.
Carlos Seuc, M.D.
Louis Stickley, M.D.
Manzoor Tariq, M.D.
K. Bryan Trimmer, D.O.
Mario Trindade, M.D.
Pitt Vesom, M.D.
Gary Vlahovich, D.O.
Christopher Vournas, M.D.
Peng-nan Wang, M.D.
Diana Westerfield, D.O.
Wendell Williams, M.D.
Liwa Younis, M.B.,Ch.B.

**Clinical Instructor**
Salahuddin Ahmad, M.B.B.S.
Lena Capapas-Waxelman, M.D.
Robert Ferrara, M.D.
Ravinder Mehra, M.D.
Frank Paletta, M.D.
Jawed Siddiqui, M.B.B.S.

**Administrative Assistant**
Ms. Gloria Skelton