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CorNotes

CVI SEMINAR SERIES

The next CVI seminar will be held on **Thursday, April 6, 2006 at 4:00 pm** in **The Van Kampen Conference Center, Building 110, Room 6274**. Our speaker is:

Jeffrey J. Rade, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

The title Dr. Rade's talk is:

"Hemodynamic Modulation of Vascular Thromboresistance: New Insights Into Why Vein Grafts Fail and Heart Failure Causes Strokes"

For further information about the CVI Seminar Series, contact Dr. Leanne Cribbs at x72817.

CVI JOURNAL CLUB

April 13…….Dr. Walenga

For further information, contact Dr. Ken Byron at x72819.

CARDIOLOGY – CVI RESEARCH DIVISION BASIC SCIENCE SEMINAR

The Cardiology Division and the CVI Research Division are sponsoring a series of joint seminars by Loyola Faculty. The following seminar is scheduled:

April 7……Dr. Jawed Fareed

The title of Dr. Fareed's talk is:

"An Update on the Optimization of Anticoagulant Regimens for Cardiology: Highlights of the 2006 ACC Meeting"

The Seminar will be held at 12:00 pm in Building 110, Room 6291.

For further information, contact Dr. Walenga at x72841.

ATHENA CLINICAL TRIAL

Dr. Joseph Akar of the section of Electrophysiology is the principal investigator conducting the ATHENA clinical trial in cooperation with Sanofi Aventis: A placebo-controlled, double-blind, parallel-arm Trial to assess the efficacy of dronedarone 400mg b.i.d. for the prevention of cardiovascular Hospitalization or death from any cause in patiENts with Atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter.
Sponsor: sanofi-aventis

Atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter are common diseases in which the heartbeat is irregular and often rapid. The symptoms are palpitations, dizziness, fatigue, chest pain, and shortness of breath. When a patient is having atrial fibrillation, he or she is more prone to develop blood clots and have an increased risk of stroke. The study objective is to assess the efficacy of dronedarone in preventing cardiovascular hospitalization or death from any cause in a population of high-risk patients with AF/AFL.

The electrophysiology properties of dronedarone are very similar to those of amiodarone, the chemical characteristics of the drug have been modified to have an improved tolerability profile. Like amiodarone, dronedarone demonstrates electrophysiological characteristics belonging to all four Vaughan-Williams classes of anti-arrhythmic compounds: it blocks sodium channels, shows a non-competitive anti-adrenergic activity, prolongs action potential and refractory periods and has calcium antagonist properties. The chemical characteristics of the drug have been modified to have an improved tolerability profile. Its hemodynamic profile is similar to that of amiodarone: decrease in heart rate, reduction in left ventricular contraction and decrease in total peripheral resistance. Dronedarone is effective in experimental models of atrial fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation.

For more information or to alert the Electrophysiology team of potential participants, please contact the project's coordinator, Jean Del Priore, at 708-216-2644 or Cindy Finn, RN at 708-216-2646.