

CorNotes

CVI SEMINAR SERIES

The next CVI seminar will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 4:00 pm in The Van Kampen Conference Center, Building 110, Room 6274.** Our speaker is:

Walter J. Koch, PhD, FAHA
W.W. Smith Professor of Medicine (Cardiology)
Director, Center for Translational Medicine
Vice Chairman for Research, Dept. of Medicine
Jefferson Medical College
Philadelphia, PA

The title Dr. Koch's talk will be announced in a future mailing.

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

CVI JOURNAL CLUB

January 26.....Dr. Byron

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

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CVI

Yamada, K., Green, K.G., Samarel, A.M., Saffitz, J.E. Distinct pathways regulate expression of cardiac electrical and mechanical junction proteins in response to stretch. *Circ.Res.* 97(4):346-353, 2005.

Dedkova, E.N., Blatter, L.A. Modulation of mitochondrial Ca²⁺ by nitric oxide in cultured bovine vascular endothelial cells. *Am. J. Physiol. Cell Physiol.* 289(4):C836-C845, 2005.

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:

January 20.....Dr. Joe Akar

The title of Dr. Akar's talk is:

“Basic Research in Cardiac Electrophysiology”

The seminar will be held at 12:00 pm in the Building 110, Rm 6291.

For further information, contact Dr. Samarel at x72821

RethinQ Clinical Trial

Dr. Niraj Varma of the Section of Electrophysiology is the principal investigator conducting the Resynchronization Therapy in Normal QRS clinical trial (RethinQ) on behalf of St. Jude Medical.

Patients with heart failure have a pumping action of the ventricles in which one ventricle contracts before the other ventricle. This uncoordinated (unsynchronized) pumping is due to a delay in the stimulation of the left ventricle because of its increased size. Pacing both the right and the left side of the heart [cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT)], has been proven to be effective in the treatment of heart failure. Current market-approved devices combine both pacing (CRT) and shocking (implantable cardioverter defibrillator) therapy for patients who have severe heart failure and are at risk for developing life-threatening heart rhythms. These devices provide an electrical pacing stimulus to both ventricles and may help the heart contract in a more coordinated way and improve heart failure symptoms.

The investigational portion of this trial involves the implantation of a market-approved CRT implantable cardioverter defibrillator (CRT-D) system in patients who do not meet the current criteria for a CRT implant. In order to receive a CRT-D implant today, patients must have heart failure symptoms, have a weakened heart muscle, and have uncoordinated pumping of the heart. To demonstrate this uncoordinated pumping of the heart, an electrocardiogram is done. It is believed that by using an echocardiogram to measure whether this uncoordinated pumping is present, more patients will be identified that will benefit from CRT-D therapy. This study will look at whether patients identified by using this echocardiogram test show a benefit from having this CRT-D therapy.

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