

CorNotes

CVI JOURNAL CLUB

July 15.....Dr. Hoppensteadt
July 29.....Dr. Scully

NEW CVI GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Leanne Cribbs, Ph.D., Principal Investigator:
NIH/NHLBI RO1 "T-type Ca Channels in Development and Cell Proliferation"

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CVI

Saw, J., Kereiakes, D.J., Mahaffey, K.W., Applegate, R.J., Braden, G.A., Brent, B.N., Brodie, B.R., Groce, J.B., Levine, G.N., Laya, F., Moliterno, D.J. Evaluation of a novel point-of-care enoxaparin monitor with central laboratory anti-Xa levels. *Thrombosis Research* 112(5-6):301-306, 2003

Ziolo, M.T., Maier, L.S., Piacentino, V., III, Bossuyt, J., Houser, S.R., Bers, D.M. Myocyte nitric oxide synthase 2 contributes to blunted β -adrenergic response in failing human hearts by decreasing Ca^{2+} transients. *Circulation* 109(15):1886-1891, 2004.

Zima, A.V., Blatter, L.A. Inositol-1,4,5-trisphosphate-dependent Ca^{2+} signalling in cat atrial excitation-contraction coupling and arrhythmias. *Journal of Physiology* 555(3):607-615, 2004.

Zima, A.V., Copello, J.A., Blatter, L.A. Effects of cytosolic NADH/NAD plus levels on sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} release in permeabilized rat ventricular myocytes. *Journal of Physiology* 555(3):727-741, 2004.

Lipsius, S.L., Samarel, A.M. Editorial: β_1 integrins modulate β -adrenergic receptor signaling. *J. Mol. Cell. Cardiol.* 36:795-798, 2004.

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKS LUHS CARDIOVASCULAR CARE 25th IN THE US!

Loyola University Health System's heart program ranks as the top program in Illinois, according to U.S. News & World Report's annual "America's Best Hospitals" rankings of more than 6,012 hospitals nationwide. This is the second year in a row Loyola's heart program was ranked at the top in Illinois. Loyola also ranks among the top 50 hospitals nationwide in six other specialties. The Loyola medical specialties that are ranked this year include: Heart and Heart Surgery (25); Ear, Nose and Throat (24); Cancer (41); Geriatrics (40); Digestive Disorders (42); Hormonal Disorders (40); Gynecology (49).

The "Best Hospitals" issue ranks the top 50 health-care institutions in 17 medical specialties, from cancer and urology to gynecology and hormonal disorders. LUHS is identified as F.G. McGaw Hospital at Loyola University in the listing.

The standards for ranking in "Best Hospitals" are rigorous. Of all 6,012 U.S. medical centers (military and veterans' hospitals are not included), only 177, or fewer than one in 30, were of high-enough quality to be ranked in even a single specialty this year. In 12 of the 17 specialties, hospitals had to meet a series of progressively tougher standards to be ranked. (In the other five specialties, as will be explained, a hospital's reputation with specialized physicians was the only criterion.) To be considered at all, a hospital had to satisfy at least one of three requirements: membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals, medical school affiliation, or availability of at least 9 out of 17 key technology-related services (such as positron emission tomography (PET), a scanning device). Only 2,113 out of all 6,012 U.S. hospitals made it through this gate.

For consideration in a specialty, a hospital next had to have performed a significant number of defined procedures – how many varied by specialty – in the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 (1,266 medical and surgical heart procedures, for example) or, alternatively, had to have been recommended by at least one physician in U.S. News surveys in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Hospitals making it this far then received a numerical assessment (the U.S. News Score that equally weighs three elements: reputation, death rate and such care-related factors as nursing and patient services.) Ranked hospitals were those with the 50 highest scores on three elements.

The methodology was devised in 1993 by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, which has conducted the survey every year since.

