

CorNotes

BECK/SCANLON CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT AWARD

I am pleased to announce that **Joseph G. Akar, M.D., Ph.D.** is the 3rd recipient of the **Beck/Scanlon Cardiovascular Scientist Development Award**. Dr. Akar is a 1991 graduate of Pennsylvania State University. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1995. He then trained in Internal Medicine at Yale University-New Haven Hospital before beginning his fellowship training in Cardiovascular Diseases and Cardiac Electrophysiology at the University of Virginia. While at UVA, Dr. Akar also earned the Ph.D. degree in Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics under the direction of AV Somlyo. Dr. Akar joined the Loyola faculty in July 2004, and has been a member of the CVI Research Division during the past year. Dr. Akar's research interests focus on electrical remodeling of the atrium, and the causes and consequences of atrial fibrillation.



Dr. Akar is the 3rd recipient of the Beck/Scanlon Cardiovascular Scientist Development Award.

The Beck/Scanlon Cardiovascular Scientist Development Award is derived from an endowment created by Mr. and Mrs. James Beck in honor of Dr. Patrick Scanlon, former Chief of Cardiology and Co-director of the Cardiovascular Institute. Previous awardees include Drs. Diane Eble and Jody Martin.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Akar on the receipt of this prestigious award.

*Allen M. Samarel, M.D.
Director of Research*

CVI JOURNAL CLUB

July 13.....Dr. Prechel
July 27.....Dr. Patel

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

TMAC TRIAL

Dr. Alain Heroux of the section of Heart Failure/Transplant is the Principal Investigator conducting the **TMAC Clinical Trial** on behalf of Scios.

This study's purpose is to assess the safety and efficacy of nesiritide. It will evaluate the drug's ability to prevent clinical worsening when administered as a 28-day continuous IV infusion in patients receiving standard care and continuous IV infusion of dobutamine or milrinone.

This prospective, randomized, parallel, multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study will be conducted with UNOS Status 1B cardiac transplant candidates (or equivalent) who are receiving standard care and continuous IV infusion of dobutamine or milrinone. Approximately 120 patients will be enrolled in this trial. Patients will be randomized 1:1 to one of two groups:

- Continuous IV infusion of nesiritide + standard care + dobutamine or milrinone
- Continuous IV infusion of placebo + standard care + dobutamine or milrinone

This study will have three phases: (1) Screening Day (Day 0); (2) Treatment Phase [Day 1 (Baseline) through Day 28 (Termination of Treatment)]; and (3) Post-treatment Follow-up Phase (Day 35 and Months 2 and 6).

Patients will be started/titrated on their nesiritide/placebo in-house up to Day 4 (can be up to Day 7). They will come into clinic weekly for post-dosing safety visits. All patients will continue to receive their long-term cardiac medications (excluding commercial nesiritide).

For more information or to alert the Heart Failure/Transplant team of potential participants, please contact the project's coordinator, Melissa Hill, at 708-327-2723.

CVI SEMINAR SERIES

There will be no CVI seminars during the months of July and August. If you are interested in sponsoring a seminar speaker for the next academic year, please contact Dr. Leanne Cribbs at x72817.