Preface

With the start of the New Year comes another opportunity for me, representing the editorial board, to thank you, our dear readers for your interests in and continuous supports for our journal. In return, we welcome you with the warmest seasonal greetings by serving you a series of interesting review papers in the first issue of the latest volume of *Current Cardiology Reviews* (CCR), which consists of 9 excellent articles.

The first paper entitled “*Adherence to Cardiac Practice Guidelines in the Management of Non-ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes: A Systematic Literature Review*” by Engel *et al.* has clearly demonstrated that wide variations in guideline adherence exist in clinical practice, with a substantial proportion of NST-ACS patients possibly not receiving guideline-recommended care. The poor adherence to the guideline certainly constitutes a potentially ignored risk factor for the patients, resulting in a unfavorable prognosis. Thus an important issue has been put forward and brought to attentions for the clinicians.

Searching for a novel drug to treat cardiovascular diseases is always an active research area for the scientists, which is usually based on extensive research studies on specific biological functions of a specific molecule. Arti Dhar *et al.* highlights the therapeutic effects of Protein Kinase R (PKR) inhibition in treating cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, suggesting that some important pathways related to PKR are indeed involved in pathological inflammation process which made this as a potential target for designing new generation of pharmacological agents. In parallel, Mezue *et al.* summarizes the data obtained from the new clinical trials that aim to test the effect of the novel oral anticoagulant, apixaban, on atrial fibrillation in comparison with other NOACs. I believe the new data and thorough discussions by the authors in these two review papers will provide unique points of view and be very interesting to the our readers.

As shown in several papers in this issue, equipped with advanced technologies newer generation of imaging systems have significantly facilitated our understanding of cardiovascular physiology and pathophysiology. The newer imaging method, such as Two Dimensional Speckle Tracking Echocardiography (2D-STE), has already been applied to quantify and characterize the subclinical left ventricular dysfunction. Similarly, imaging subclinical atherosclerosis as an important subset of clinical data certainly provides extra information to the clinician, yet with cautions how the clinicians would interpret the data obtained from different imaging modalities. Importantly, as emphasized by Wong’s and Rabkin’s two separate review papers, cardiac imaging should provide information that can be used not only to stratify and track the prognosis of patients, such as the patients with heart failure, but also to quantify and detect the reduced coronary blood flow which is inversely associated with increased left ventricular mass in hypertensive patients.

We have also published two interesting papers in this issue that were carefully selected to refresh our knowledge about the relationship between inflammation and cardiovascular disease. The role of Toll-like Receptor-4, as an innate immunity reaction in pathogenesis of atherosclerosis in response to endotoxin and therapeutic effects of inhibition of HMG-CoA have been reviewed and discussed by Horseman *et al.* Interestingly, another group of authors have introduced a pretty new yet very important clinical scenario: Toxocara Species can contribute to cardiovascular diseases. This clinical complex should be certainly brought to attentions for clinical situations when etiology is an essential issue.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors, the reviewers and our staff members, it wouldn’t be possible without their efforts and significant contributions. I would sincerely welcome all reader to submit your manuscripts with unique viewpoints. Hope that together we can make journal of “*Current Cardiology Reviews*” an essential reference journal for the students, clinicians and scientists.

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