

Our MISSION is to provide compassionate patient-focused clinical care that exceeds the highest standards of quality and patient satisfaction in an unparalleled work environment that features the seamless integration of clinical care and high-impact research.

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The CARE Newsletter

The Cardiovascular and Research Education Newsletter

Cardiovascular Working Group John F. Keaney, Jr., MD

Special points of interest:

- CWG Updates
With John F. Keaney, Jr., MD
- Faculty Spotlight:
Rishi Vohora, MD
- Fellows Corner:
Timothy Egan, MD
- Research Study:
Kathleen Slincy, RN

News & Information

- CWG Meeting
Schedule



This month we heard from Jason Kim, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Medicine. Dr. Kim presented data on the genetic models of diabetes and their relation to human disease. Particularly exciting were observations of a new polygenic mouse model, known as the Tallyho mouse, which exhibits adult onset diabetes with cardiovascular sequelae. Specifically, these mice demonstrate reduced ventricular diastolic function as determined by echocardiographic variables. The echocardiography in these mice was performed by the Mouse

Phenotyping core with the assistance of Cardiovascular Medicine and the input of Jeff Hill, Gerry Aurigemma, and Tim Fitzgibbons. This work on the diastolic function of diabetic mice is extremely important as there is a significant gap in our knowledge concerning diabetes and diastolic dysfunction, an important clinical problem. We look forward to the continued studies from the phenotyping core, as this is a unique opportunity to gain insight into the physiology and causes of diastolic dysfunction.



Fellows Corner Timothy Egan, MD



Dr. Timothy Egan is currently in his second year of cardiology fellowship. He recently began working with Dr. Ira Ockene and Dr. David McManus to investigate gender differences in heart rate

variability (HRV). HRV is a non-invasive method of assessing a patient's autonomic function. It has been shown to be an independent predictor of poor outcomes, especially in patients with coronary

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Faculty Spotlight Rishi Vohora, MD



Dr. Rishi Vohora recently joined the faculty as a general cardiologist after completing his residency, chief residency and fellowship at UMass. His clinical interests include consultative cardiology and acute coronary syndromes and remains interested in furthering resident and fellow education.

Dr. Vohora is board certified in cardiovascular diseases, echocardiography,

and nuclear cardiology. He works on the University campus in a number of roles including attending physician in the Coronary Care Unit and Cardiology ward service as well as involvement in a multitude of diagnostic testing and procedures including transesophageal echocardiograms and diagnostic catheterizations.

Dr. Vohora has also been appointed Director of Car-

diovascular Medicine at Clinton Hospital where he will be responsible for orchestrating the roll out of our successful Heart & Vascular Center of Excellence Programs including STEMI transfer, AMI mortality, CHF readmission rates and length of stay initiatives.

Fellows Corner (continued)

artery disease. Heart rate variability is also known to affect an individual's stress level. However, the role of gender in HRV, particularly as it relates to stress, is poorly understood.

In addition, Dr Egan is in the process of completing a manuscript with Dr. Aurigemma on the topic of prosthetic heart valves. This will both critically review landmark studies on prosthetic aortic valves and examine data from recently

published studies. It will also describe emerging techniques, such as transcatheter aortic valve replacement, and review the initial data available on these procedures.



What: Cardiovascular Working Group Meeting
When: February 9, 2010 @ 5:00 p.m.
Where: Faculty Conference Room, S1-342
Guest Speaker: Chunying Li, PhD
Instructor
UMASS Medical School
Topic: "Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase is Required for Mitochondrial Biogenesis and Stress Adaptation"

The Division of Cardiology has resumed enrollment in two clinical trials. The first, **TOPCAT**, is an NHLBI study looking at the efficacy of spironolactone therapy in the management of heart failure symptoms with preserved LV function. The second, **RED HF**, is comparing darbepoetin vs. placebo in patients with anemia and heart failure. The key inclusion and exclusion criteria for both studies are

listed below. For more information or if you have a potential subject for either of these trials, please contact the study coordinators, **Bridgett Monville (pager #2525)** or **Kathleen Sliney (pager #508-722-0036)**. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

RED HF

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients with EF \leq 40% • Heart failure for \geq 3 months; NYHA Class II, III, IV • Hgb 9.0 – 12.0 g/dL (must be anemia of chronic disease) • Optimal cardiovascular therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly controlled HTN • Serum creatinine > 3.0 mg/dL • Heart failure caused by significant valvular disease or requiring valve surgery within 12 months • ICD implantation or CRT initiated within 30 days prior to randomization • IV infusion therapy for heart failure or MI, revascularization or other major surgery within 3 months of randomization

TOPCAT

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients with EF \geq 45% • must have at least one sign and one symptom of heart failure • controlled blood pressure • Serum potassium < 5.0 mmol/L • Age \geq 50 yrs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant COPD or hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, pericardial constriction, or uncorrected valvular heart disease, or is implanted with LVAD • Afib with resting heart rate > 90 bpm • Recent MI, CVA, CABG, or PTCA • Present treatment with aldosterone antagonist

Call the Cardiovascular Research Hot Line: 4-ENRL (4-3675) or 508-344-3675 or Cardio.Research@UMassMed.edu

Cardiovascular Working Group Meeting Schedule

Faculty Conference Room S1-342 University Campus

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Date & Time	Speaker**	Topic
Mar. 16, 2010 5:00 p.m.	Gerard Aurigemma, M.D.	TBD
Apr. 13, 2010 5:00 p.m. Amp II, S4-102	David McManus, MD	TBD
May 18, 2010 5:00 p.m.	Robert Phillips, MD, PhD	TBD
June 15, 2010 5:00 p.m.	Ira Ockene, MD	TBD

**Speakers subject to change due to their availability.

As always, you can find The CARE Newsletter
on the Cardiovascular Medicine web site under
Research:
<http://www.umassmed.edu/cardio/index.aspx>

