

It is a great honor to participate in the foreword to the book *Key Leaders' Opinions on Hot Issues of Cardiology*, which introduces important developments in the diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of recent cardiology. The intense cardiovascular research that is ongoing around the world is bringing rapid advances in techniques and treatments that are progressively improving the quality and quantity of life in cardiac patients. This book includes important reviews in the fields of ischemic heart disease, cardiomyopathy and valvulopathy that all readers with an interest in cardiology will surely enjoy and appreciate.

Cardiovascular science is developing exponentially. Those of us who are old enough to have been working in this field for the last 30 or 40 years are well aware of the revolution that is currently taking place in the management of cardiovascular diseases. When I first began my career in cardiology, it was common to treat patients with acute myocardial infarction with antiarrhythmics and calcium antagonists, and techniques such as coronary angioplasty without the stent and ablation in cardiac arrhythmias were only in their infancy. When one looks back, the tremendous progress we have made is plain for all to see. In the pharmacological treatment of patients with acute coronary syndrome, new drugs such as antiaggregants and statins have completely changed the prognosis and have acquired a major role in improving the short and long-term prospects of these patients. In the field of percutaneous coronary intervention, procedures are now being performed on very complex lesions using coated stents with a high immediate success rate and a low rate of short and medium-term complications. Furthermore, percutaneous intervention is gradually becoming commonplace in structural cardiac pathology treatments that until recently had only surgical solutions, and although new solutions have started to be adopted for many valvulopathies, we can be certain that in the near future we will see many new procedures that until now were firmly in the realms of imagination. Similarly, in the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias, the use of navigators and new techniques such as cryoablation have completely revolutionized these procedures. No less important are the advances in the field of imaging; advanced echocardiography techniques, along with cardiovascular magnetic resonance and multi-CT scans, allow us to visualize the structure and cardiac function in ways that we could never have dreamt of in the past. In addition, we have come a long way in terms of research methodologies so that it is now commonplace to design studies aimed at producing evidence-based medicine.

The future is exciting and very close at hand. It is hard to imagine what cardiology will look like in 20 or 30 years' time but we will almost certainly be surprised when we recall how things were done in the first third of the 21st century. Moreover, as a clinical cardiologist, I hope that the inevitable advances will bring with them a more personalized and patient-centered medicine.

This book brings us up to date regarding many aspects of cardiovascular pathology and will be an invaluable aid in the process of lifelong and continuous training that is so vital to our specialty.

**Alfredo Bardají, MD, PhD, FESC**

Chief of the Department of Cardiology. University Hospital Joan XXIII. Tarragona, Spain.

Professor of Medicine, Rovira Virgili University, Tarragona, Spain

(Email: [alfredo.bardaji@urv.cat](mailto:alfredo.bardaji@urv.cat))