

Methodist DeBakey Heart Center Expands CME Offerings

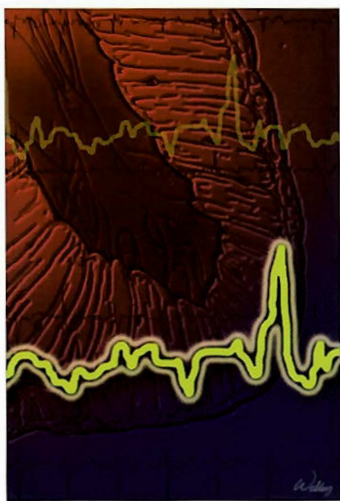
B E N C H T O B E D S I D E

SCIENCE

TREATMENT

The Methodist DeBakey Heart Center offers live and online accredited CME activities that focus on ongoing research and clinical efforts. These activities are part of a growing series that highlights The Methodist Hospitals bench-to-bedside approach to evidence-based medicine.

Upcoming Live CME Activities



UPDATING HEART FAILURE

Program Director:
Guillermo Torre, MD
April 23, 2005
Houston, Texas

WOMEN'S HEART DISEASE:

*Franz Alotber
to Dal Igber*

Program Director:
Karia Kurrelmeyer, MD
May 7, 2005
Houston, Texas



CONTEMPORARY DIAGNOSIS & A Janagenzent of Carotid Disease

Program Director:
Alan Lumsden, MD
May 14, 2005
Houston, Texas

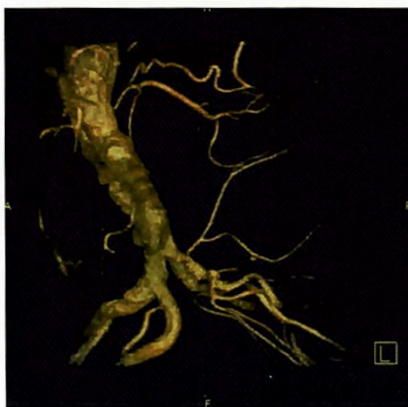
For further information about these programs, please call our CME coordinator at (713) 441-4948

Online CME Activities

The Role of Inflammation in the Pathogenesis of Heart Failure

Christie Ballantyne, MD; Douglas Mann, MD; and Guillermo Torre-Amione, MD; discuss immunological and molecular alterations that occur during heart failure, including the relevance of inflammation in disease progression.

To access this activity, log on to www.methodisthealth.com/chfg.



New Directions in the Treatment of Peripheral Arterial Disease

Alan B. Lumsden, MD; Christie Ballantyne, MD; Joel D. Morrisett, PhD; and Paul F. Bray, MD present key concepts and future directions in peripheral arterial disease, an emerging epidemic that is severely underdiagnosed in the United States.

To access this activity, log on to www.methodisthealth.com/padj.

Implantable Defibrillator Saves Lives in Heart Failure Patients

Methodist was one of 150 U.S. medical centers involved in an NIH-funded study showing that implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) reduce death by 23 percent in people with heart failure. Published in a recent issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, findings from the Sudden Cardiac Death in Heart Failure Trial (SCD-HeFT) suggest that roughly 600,000 Americans with heart failure could be at risk for sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and would warrant protection by an ICD.

The study compared the lifesaving benefits of ICDs versus amiodarone, a powerful and often used heart rhythm medication, in 2,521 patients with moderate heart failure and poor heart pumping function who had not experienced a prior episode of sudden cardiac arrest. The positive findings were boosted by economic study data presented at the 2004 AHA Scientific Sessions indicating that ICDs are a cost-effective therapy in this heart failure population.

According to Dr. Nadim Nasir Jr., one of the Methodist co-investigators and director of the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center Electrophysiology Lab, ICDs have only been used in the 5 percent of people who had already survived an episode of sudden cardiac arrest. Based on the SCD-HeFT results, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services plans to expand the Medicare beneficiaries eligible for an ICD.



Methodist Offers Training for New Carotid Stent Procedure

The Methodist DeBakey Heart Center has been selected as one of 20 centers nationwide to offer physicians advanced simulation training on carotid artery stenting procedures. An established therapy used to treat heart and peripheral vascular disease, carotid stenting was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for patients who are ineligible or at high risk to undergo traditional invasive surgical treatment for carotid artery disease.

Offered by Heart Center physician Alan Lumsden through Guidant Corp., the training program uses virtual reality simulators that display images of the body's circulatory system, allowing physicians to perform a virtual implantation procedure. The technology, which uses various 3-D patient anatomies, tactile feedback and a range of scenarios, has been shown to result in improved patient safety and health care.

New Heart Council-Vision of a World Without Heart Disease or Heart Failure

The DeBakey Heart Council supports the mission and priorities of the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center. The Council comprises individuals and honors the leadership and work of Dr. M. Khad E. DeBakey, who pioneered many of today's standard heart treatments at The Methodist Hospital.

The Council provides a means for community members to support research and other Heart Center initiatives. All donor gifts are combined into a single pooled fund. Physicians and staff of the Heart Center prepare a slate of their highest priority research, prevention, education and treatment projects. Once a year, a project slate is distributed to Council members, who are asked to vote on their preference of projects. The project(s) receiving the most votes are supported until all Council funds are expended. The first slate of projects will be approved in April of this year.

Contributors to the DeBakey Heart Council support the vision of the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center - *a vision that includes a world without heart disease or heart failure.*