LIVE CME IN HOUSTON

TOTAL ENDOVASCULAR SERIES: CAROTID 1 SYMPOSIUM MARCH 9-10, 2007 HOUSTON, TEXAS

The Methodist DeBakey Heart Center will host the Carotid 1 Symposium, the second of the "Total Endovascular" four-part series of symposia highlighting new developments in the management of endovascular disease. Launched in May 2006 with the Total Endovascular Aorta I Symposium, the series will continue in March 2007 with the carotid artery, followed by the femoral artery in 2008 and vein in 2009. The series will then repeat the following year with Total Endovascular 11, featuring updates on each aspect of vascular surgery. Each symposium will be accompanied by a topic-specific monograph.

This two-day conference is designed for vascular and cardiac surgeons, radiologists, interventional radiologists, cardiologists, vascular biologists and other physicians who manage carotid disease. The meeting format will include didactic presentations, recorded case reviews, panel discussions and lively topic debates led by multidisciplinary national and international faculty who are recognized experts in their chosen fields.

Upon completion, conference participants will be able to:

- Describe the pathophysiology of carotid, vertebral and supra-aortic trunk atherosclerosis including flow dynamics, plaque analysis and genomics and proteomics of plaque;
- Identify standard and emerging techniques for carotid imaging including appropriate imaging for patient selection, intervention and follow up - planning the optimal approach based on interpretation and analysis of images - and appreciate the advantages and limitation of each type of imaging;
- Summarize the nuances of each carotid stent, including interpretation of trial results, troubleshooting individual stents and embolization protection devices, and patient selection for each device; and
- Describe stent-related complications, their management and consequences for individual patients.

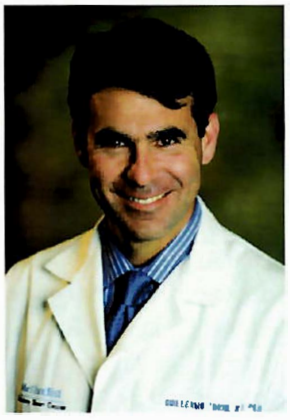
Program Director: Alan B. Lumsden, MD, FACS
Methodist DeBakey Heart Center

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of Continuing Medical Education Resources and The Methodist Hospital. Continuing Medical Education Resources is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Date: **March 9-10, 2007**
Location: **The Houstonian Hotel**
Houston, Texas

For more information:
Call: **713-965-0566**
Online: www.totalendovasularweries.org

NEW HEART FAILURE WORKING GROUP PULLS EXPERTISE FROM ACROSS GLOBE



Methodist DeBakey Heart Center cardiologist Guillermo Torre-Amione and cardiologist Gadi Cotter, from the Duke Clinical Research Institute in Durham, N.C., have pulled together more than 30 international heart failure experts to try to solve this serious cardiac problem.

"Our purpose is to be a 'working' group to encourage intellectual and interactive collaboration and to continually improve upon the planning and performance of clinical trials," Torre said. "Heart failure affects 4.8 million people in the United States alone, with 400,000 new cases reported annually. We want to get the best minds together to solve this problem, reduce the burden of this illness, and provide better treatments for patients with heart failure."

The Heart Failure Working Group (HFWG) from the United States, Europe, Africa and South America will work to develop new therapies for heart failure; support new research with an established group of investigators; and establish a research consortium to help standardize and facilitate new research.

After several meetings in 2005, the need to collaborate and align top expertise across the world became very apparent, Torre said. The HFWG met in Helsinki, Finland, in June 2006 to discuss new ideas for European/U.S. collaboration and potential pilot projects in the areas of myocardial contrast echocardiography for acute heart failure and dyssynchrony in diastolic heart failure, among others.

"By pulling together the top minds in an intimate and long-term working group, we hope to speed discovery of new approaches, new treatments and new cures for heart failure," Torre said.

PHYSICIAN COMMENTARY ON THE FDA CIRCULATORY SYSTEM DEVICES ADVISORY PANEL ADDRESSING THE OVERALL SAFETY OF DRUG-ELUTING STENTS DECEMBER 7 AND 8, 2006 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Dr. Neal Kleiman

Director of Cardiac Catheterization at the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center

The FDA convened a meeting of the Circulatory System Devices Advisory Panel on 7 and 8 December to consider recent reports of an excess hazard associated with currently available drug-eluting stents (DES) compared with bare metal stents (BMS). Drug-eluting stents are stents coated with a polymer that controls the release of a medication designed to prevent the growth of tissue into the stent that would otherwise lead to narrowing of the stent and recurrence of blockage within the artery. Two types of DES are currently available in the US; several more are available in other parts of the world. Although the ability of these stents to prevent renarrowing of the vessel has been established beyond dispute (approximately 80% reductions), long term data do not establish the ability of these stents to lower the long term risk of death or heart attack. Several observations reported at the annual European Society of Cardiology meeting in Barcelona in late August suggested that there was an increase in the risk of death among patients who had received DES.

It is important to remember that the FDA's mandate is not to regulate how medicine is practiced or how drugs or devices are used, but rather to determine which drugs or devices may be marketed and how they may be promoted. The decision concerning whether and how to use a device is determined by physicians and patients.

To read Dr. Kleiman's complete commentary, visit us at www.methodisthealth.com/stents.