Letter from the Editors

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Welcome to the *Journal of Cardiovascular Translational Research*. *JCTR* publishes original peer-reviewed papers and review articles in the areas of clinical trials and preclinical research, imaging, genetics and genomics, devices, and education. Please see the *scope* page for a full review of the focus areas.

We continue to grow. Our editorial board has increased to over 60 members in the second year. We have forged a commitment with the FDA to contribute articles to *JCTR*. These articles will focus on the strategic plan of the FDA and how this impacts the field of cardiovascular research. The National Society of Genetic Counselors and the American Board of Genetic Counseling have committed to publishing articles to increase awareness and education on the role of genetics and cardiovascular disease.

In year two, our goals are to maintain the high quality of articles, increase original article submissions, and strive to highlight areas of research you are interested in reading.

In this inaugural issue of 2009, we chose to feature a section, “Imaging in Cardiovascular Medicine”. These articles review the current literature on the use of intravascular ultrasound to characterize the composition of coronary vessels, MRI to characterize metabolic flux in the heart, and cardiac echo in stem cell therapy. In addition, a review by Asch and Weissman highlights the different diagnostic

approaches to assess myocardial viability in chronic ischemic cardiomyopathy and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of each. Finally, Dennis Vaccaro’s group enriches the discovery of nanoparticles as tools to label cells.

In this inaugural issue, we are also featuring a published synopsis of The Fifth International Symposium on Stem Cell Therapy and Applied Cardiovascular Biotechnology held in Madrid, Spain. These articles highlight many of the state-of-the-art talks at this meeting focused in the areas of both stem cell therapy and applied cardiovascular biology. Articles include immunogenicity and allogenicity of stem cells and bone marrow for cell therapy as well as biological implications of left ventricular assist devices and perinfarct pacing to change the course of myocardial remodeling in patients. An overview of the upcoming 2009 International Symposium on Stem Cell Therapy and Applied Cardiovascular Biotechnology in Spain can be found at <http://www.cardiovascularcelltherapy.com>. Webcasts from this meeting can be found at <http://www.cardiovascularcelltherapy.com/>.

Thank you for your continued interest in *JCTR*.

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