



# Federico Caobelli (Ed): Imaging of Inflammation and Infection in Cardiovascular Diseases

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The book *Imaging of Inflammation and Infection in Cardiovascular Diseases* belongs to the category of what I call *deeply vertical trees*, that is, the publications that go deep into a specific topic, extensively and documentedly describing the roots at its base, at the same time projecting towards the future.

The book arrives at the right time, when a great deal has already been said by nuclear medicine about ischemic heart disease, while the learning spaces for other cardiac pathologies, such as the inflammatory and infectious ones, are still wide. The interest also arises from the description of a growth area that is still predominantly in the preclinical field, that of the relationship of inflammation with the atherosclerotic plaque, to define a prognostic risk of extreme importance for the health and life of the patient. Furthermore, defining the role of inflammation in a cardiac disease could help better define new therapeutic strategies, as example, for the culprit lesion or for the post-ischemic inflammation.

The Editor is a still young but already well-known clinical scientist, Federico Caobelli, actually responsible for Nuclear Cardiology in the Clinic of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine of the University Hospital of Basel. He invited to a collaboration many of the major European experts in the field, covering with their contribution the most relevant techniques for imaging in inflammation and infection in the most common non-ischemic and ischemic cardiovascular diseases. In this context, the relevant role of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is also explained, as a complementary or alternative

technique with radionuclide procedures, based on SPECT and PET.

The editorial goal, clearly expressed in the preface, is the will to address the following questions: (1) Which are the most accurate methods to diagnose a particular inflammatory or infectious heart disease and to guide its appropriate therapeutic approach? (2) Which are the most useful methods to risk stratify these patients? (3) Which are the new targets and concepts toward which research is moving, allowing for an even better evaluation of the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms in these cardiac diseases?

The final positive result in answering to these queries has been obtained in 176 pages, with more than 120 figures, the majority in color, distributed in the following 9 chapters, organized in 4 parts: Part I, Challenges in Patient Preparation: (1) Challenges in Patient Preparation. Part II, Non-ischemic Diseases: (2) Cardiac Sarcoidosis; (3) Cardiac Amyloidosis. Part III, Ischemic Diseases: (4) Molecular Imaging of Vulnerable Plaque; (5) Post-Infarction Inflammatory Alterations. Part IV; Infection: (6) Infection: Pericarditis. (7) Infection: Myocarditis. (8) Cardiac Devices Infection, (9) Endocarditis.

Although it also deals with complex topics, this updated book is written in a simple and understandable way, using a clear didactic approach. Therefore, I suggest this publication to imagers, clinicians, and surgeons involved in the diagnosis and treatment of heart diseases. The volume could also be of interest for infectious disease specialists and for preclinical scientists, interested to research in the cardiovascular field.

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