
*To Alice and Raffaella
my beloved daughters.*

*Never give up your dreams,
but believe in what you desire
and in what you do:
only thus will you find
the courage that is within you.*

M. M. Gulizia (Editor)

Emerging Pathologies in Cardiology

Proceedings of the
Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

(Taormina, April 7-9, 2005)

 Springer

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Preface

Clinical practice is evolving at a rapid pace, nowhere more so than in the field of cardiology. Acute Coronary Syndromes, Sudden Cardiac Death, Heart Failure, Atrial Fibrillation, Syncope, and Prevention of Global Cardiovascular Risk are the main *Emerging Pathologies* to which many investigators are addressing their researches. Less than 10 years ago, some of them were considered of relevance only to internists, and some others as a common benign arrhythmia or an ineluctable illness. Today, their prevalence amongst the population represents one of the major public health problems at the beginning of the third millennium.

The need to have *a state of the art overview* of the epidemiology, physiopathological and electrogenetic mechanisms, diagnosis, pharmacological or electrical treatment, prognosis, patient management in and out of hospital, organisational and economical implications of these emerging pathologies and the success of the previous edition inspired us to organise the second edition of this biannual International Meeting.

This book contains the Proceedings of the Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting held in Taormina, Italy, 7–9 April 2005. Like the previous volume, it boasts the participation of many nationally and internationally renowned speakers in the field of clinical and interventional cardiology who will interact actively with the delegates.

The book is divided into eight sections, each devoted to a different topic: *Emerging Concepts in the Assessment of Acute Coronary Syndromes and Global Cardiovascular Risk; Atrial Fibrillation: the Current Clinical Approach; Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy: New Therapeutic and Diagnostic Perspectives in Heart Failure Management; Managing Sudden Death: Selection of Patients, Drugs, and Devices; New Trends in Physiological Pacing and Optimal Pacing Sites; Haemodynamic Sensing in the Control of Pacing Function; Syncope: Practical Issues of Diagnosis and Treatment; Latest Technologies in Cardiovascular Imaging: An Update for the Clinical Cardiologist.*

It aims to provide the latest information about the most recent and modern aspects of the above mentioned pathologies. It is intended not only for cardiol-

gists, but also for those who are actively interested in the evidence-based approach to clinical care, such as internists, emergency and critical care clinicians, physicians of general medicine, fellows, students, nurses, and technicians. It may also be helpful for those engaged in the development and coordination of research strategies in biological engineering, industry, and regulatory affairs, who have a high interest in the overall management of these cardiac pathologies.

A Faculty, selected from leading Italian and foreign experts in the field, ensures the highest quality of this volume: the publications of many of them have contributed to the scientific development and influenced many of our professional considerations and decisions. I am really most indebted to all these authors, who have devoted the invaluable time and effort without which this book would not have been completed.

I also wish to thank the staff of Springer, and in particular Donatella Rizza, Executive Editor, who has facilitated the publication of this book since the first edition of the Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting, and who has kindly assisted me throughout. Special and deep words of thanks are addressed to Rita Reggiani, professional, tireless, and very kind Project Leader of Adria Congrex, who has helped and supported me in achieving the best possible organisation of this International Meeting, together with her staff members Silvana and Maristella.

I cannot forget to acknowledge the role of my two teachers Antonio Circo and Salvatore Mangiameli, who encouraged my passion for cardiology and particularly for arrhythmology and clinical management.

In addition, I would like to thank my co-workers Asmundo, Cacia, Compagnone, Francese, Portale, Raciti, Ragusa, Rubino, Vitale, and all the nursing staff of my division at the S. Luigi–S. Currò Hospital of Catania for their active collaboration and support during these years of work and for the organisation of this Meeting.

Finally, a special mention for my dear wife Luisa, my daughters Alice and Raffaella, and my parents Raffaele and Cettina. I am especially and deeply grateful to them. Without their love and patience I could not have spent so many nights and weekends preparing the Meeting and this volume.

Michele Gulizia

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