Foreword

Advances in Atrial Fibrillation Ablation

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I am pleased to introduce this issue of *Cardiac Electrophysiology Clinics* focused on advances in atrial fibrillation (AF) ablation.

Pulmonary vein-triggered AF was discovered serendipitously by Haissaguerre over 20 years ago. Ablation of these foci became an obvious target, and this has been the focus of clinical and scientific research in cardiac electrophysiology for the last two decades.

We have been successful to a large extent after trying many approaches, but we have not been able to eliminate this problem. We have made many advances. Technological breakthroughs have come and gone, and new ones are still emerging. Many limitations have become apparent, and it has dawned on us that AF is not “curable” in most patients, but it can be palliated to a significant extent. Despite the intense focus on this problem, much remains to be learned.

It is appropriate to take stock at this juncture. We will not be able to summarize the entire field and therefore focus our discussion on promising ideas that are at the forefront at this time. I congratulate Drs Di Biase, Marchlinski, and Natale, the editors of this issue, for selecting topics that are of interest to the readership and getting thought-leaders to concisely pen contemporary thinking.

I hope the readership will enjoy reading these timely reviews.

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