Foreword

Intracardiac Echocardiography

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Consulting Editors

We are pleased to introduce the readers to the current issue of the *Cardiac Electrophysiology Clinics* on “Intracardiac Echo Imaging in Atrial and Ventricular Arrhythmia Ablation,” edited by Drs Garcia, Saenz, and Santangeli.

Echocardiography is an integral part of cardiology. The first catheter-mounted ultrasound transducer was introduced in 1960, but the introduction of lower-frequency catheters (<12 MHz) in the 1990s made intracardiac imaging widely applicable. Initially, radial intracardiac echocardiography (ICE) was most useful for vascular procedures, and later, for transseptal catheterization, but the availability of phased-array intracardiac ultrasound catheters opened up applications in electrophysiology.

The most impressive impact of ICE has been on aiding anatomic visualization of the fossa ovalis during transseptal catheterization. This has allowed rapid dissemination of safe transseptal catheterization globally, even in the hands of novices, and allowed atrial fibrillation ablation to become widely utilized.

This issue of the *Cardiac Electrophysiology Clinics* discusses the use of ICE for definition of normal cardiac anatomy as well as transseptal

catheterization, ablation of atrial and ventricular arrhythmias, closure of the left atrial appendage, early recognition of procedural complications, and other emerging innovative uses.

We thank the editors and all the contributors for summarizing the applications of a very important tool in electrophysiology. We hope the readership will find these articles useful as summaries to review current utility of ICE in clinical electrophysiology.

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