We are pleased to introduce this issue of the Cardiac Electrophysiology Clinics devoted to Arrhythmias in Cardiomyopathies.

The myocardium has a certain organizational structure and contractile and electrical functions. A disturbance in any of these, in isolation or in combination, can be described under the rubric of cardiomyopathy. Our initial appreciation of cardiomyopathy was in the setting of systolic left ventricular dysfunction; that appreciation has grown to include a vast number of entities that result in functional and/or electrical abnormalities. These are reflected in the table of contents of this volume: hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, peripartum cardiomyopathy, noncompaction syndrome, and so on.

Cardiomyopathies may be due to myocardial disorganization or metabolic abnormalities (such as in Fabry disease) and may occur after viral or parasitic infections or cellular/subcellular abnormalities (such as mitochondrial abnormalities). The field is still evolving as new research findings give us new insights. For example, recently the group from UCLA described arrhythmogenic inflammatory cardiomyopathy in patients with occult cardiac sarcoidosis.1

We congratulate Drs Shenasa, Link, and Maron on compiling this summary of the present understanding of cardiac arrhythmias in various forms of cardiomyopathy. They have enlisted leaders in the field to bring the readers up-to-date on their respective areas of focus. Electrophysiologists and cardiologists will find a lot of useful information “under one roof.”

Ranjan K. Thakur, MD, MPH, MBA, FACC, FHRS
Sparrow Thoracic and Cardiovascular Institute
Michigan State University
1200 East Michigan Avenue, Suite 580
Lansing, MI 48912, USA

Andrea Natale, MD, FACC, FHRS
Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia Institute
Center for Atrial Fibrillation at St. David’s Medical Center
1015 East 32nd Street, Suite 516
Austin, TX 78705, USA

E-mail addresses:
thakur@msu.edu (R.K. Thakur)
andrea.natale@stdavids.com (A. Natale)

REFERENCE