

Introduction: Outcomes 2003

John M. Murkin, MD, David A. Stump, PhD
GUEST EDITORS

Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, University Hospital Campus—London Health Sciences Center, London, Ontario, Canada; Department of Anesthesiology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA

In this issue we bring you highlights from the seventh annual Outcomes meeting held at the Casa Marina resort in Key West, Florida, from May 21 through May 25, 2003. In addition to these Proceedings, selected features from the meeting lectures will be available for viewing at www.outcomeskeywest.com.

Again this year the multidisciplinary, international nature of the meeting provided an engaging format for presentation of issues related to brain, spinal, and other target organ protection for patients undergoing a variety of cardiac, vascular, and related surgeries. Given this mix of expert clinicians and scientists, as well as the consistently high levels of attendance at all sessions, the tenor of the scientific discussion and debate at the various lectures and abstract presentations was very high. Audience participation was uniformly strong throughout the meeting, interaction being facilitated and encouraged by the program format. The Poolside Poster Session was very well received and will accordingly be expanded and enhanced for next year to provide a more structured discussion period, all while sampling a variety of fine wines and cheeses in an oceanside setting.

From the discussions and abstracts published herein, several important new themes emerged this year. The concept of the lung acting as a “sieve not a filter” and thus enabling the temperature-dependent passage of deformable lipid microemboli was further explored, and helps to explain the observations of systemic

lipid emboli occurring both with use of cardiectomy suction blood during CPB, and during non-bypass-related orthopedic hip arthroplasty procedures. Further data was presented outlining the critical role played by epiaortic scanning in the detection and avoidance of aortic atheroma, while additional results reflecting the positive impact on outcomes associated with minimizing aortic instrumentation eg, use of a single cross-clamp, was also provided. The use of brain-specific monitoring, eg, near infrared spectroscopy and guided interventions during CPB was associated with overall lower morbidity and shorter lengths of stay. Increasing attention is also being directed to examination of clinical management during the immediate postoperative period, where hyperglycemia and low grade fever have been associated with greater risk of cognitive, neurological, and other complications.

Overwhelmingly the responses from the registrants indicated that this was a highly productive, very enjoyable, and scientifically stimulating meeting. As always, the overall success of the Outcomes meeting is due to the high quality of the scientific papers and the attendant debate, and thanks must go to all those participants, registrants, lecturers, and staff who contributed so much to the success of this year's program. Thanks to you all. We hope to see you next year, at Outcomes 2004, May 19 to 23, 2004. For further information, registration, and abstract submission details visit our website at www.outcomeskeywest.com.

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge an unrestricted Educational Grant provided by **Bayer Pharmaceutical** to support publication of these Proceedings in *The Heart Surgery Forum*.

We also gratefully acknowledge the conference's major supporter:

Bayer Pharmaceutical

and exhibitors:

Somanetics Corporation

Terumo Cardiovascular Systems

We wish to thank the following members of the support staff for contributing directly to the success of the Outcomes 2003 meeting:

Sandy Adams, Dwight Deal, Catherine Hawke, Kim Kirkland, Rosita Lok, Peggy Rachels, Jason Vernon, Alison Walker-Jones

Site Coordinator and Syllabus Editor: **Kashemi Rorie, PhD**

A-V Educational Director: **Steven Dain, MD**

Videographer: **Peter Lok, RRT**

We also would like to thank **E-Media Medical Educationals Inc.**, for A-V and Internet support.