



Juan Carlos Kaski is Professor of Cardiovascular Science at St George's, University of London (SGUL), UK, Honorary Consultant Cardiologist at St George's Hospital NHS Trust, London, and immediate past director of the Cardiovascular and Cell Sciences Research Institute at SGUL. Professor Kaski is a Doctor of Science, University of London, an immediate past president of the International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy (ISCP), and an editorial board member and associate editor of numerous peer-review journals. He is also fellow of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), American College of Cardiology (ACC), American Heart Association (AHA), Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and more than 30 other scientific societies worldwide.

Professor Kaski's research areas include mechanisms of rapid coronary artery disease progression, inflammatory and immunological mechanisms of atherosclerosis, microvascular angina and biomarkers of cardiovascular risk. Professor Kaski has published more than 450 papers in peer-reviewed journals, more than 200 invited papers in cardiology journals and more than 130 book chapters. He has also edited six books on cardiovascular topics.

It is a great pleasure for me to present a new issue of ECR. This issue has, in addition to our customary article devoted to a 'Cardio Master', eleven great papers grouped under four major sections: Ischaemic Heart Disease, Heart Failure and Arrhythmias, Risk Factors and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Pharmacotherapy. The latter, guest-edited by the International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy (ISCP) presents two important articles, one by Cattaneo et al. focusing on cardiovascular imaging and theranostics and the other, by Sanz et al., discussing anticoagulant therapies in patients with cancer and atrial fibrillation.

The Ischaemic Heart Disease section contains a scholarly article by Shimokawa et al. on the links between coronary artery spasm and perivascular fat inflammation, and a provocative paper by Kakuta et al., discussing the implications of an improvement in fractional flow reserve after percutaneous coronary intervention. Moreover, this section presents two critical review articles, one by Thadani et al on international guidelines for management of stable angina pectoris and another by Cuocolo et al. suggesting new scoring systems for the quantification of myocardial perfusion.

Under the overarching heading of Heart Failure and Arrhythmias, this section contains three extremely important articles. Juan Tamargo discusses the role of sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLC-2) inhibitors in heart failure patients, Dilaveris et al. tackle the important issue of cardiac resynchronisation therapy and its effects on cardiac energetics and Calvo et al. review risk stratification in patients with Brugada syndrome.

In the section devoted to Risk Factors and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, Tousoulis et al. and Hasegawa et al. shed light onto the role of inflammation in the genesis of cardiovascular events in patients with diabetes mellitus, and the determinants of coronary artery disease progression after quitting smoking, respectively.

In accordance with ECR's traditional approach, all of the articles in this issue have major importance for patient risk stratification and management. I trust that the information contained in the present issue will assist healthcare practitioners to successfully tackle the continuing challenges posed by patients in clinical practice.

Last but not least, the Cardiomasters section in this issue celebrates the achievements of Antoni Bayes de Luna, an outstanding physician and clinical investigator from Catalonia whose discoveries and teachings have inspired several generations of physicians worldwide.

Once again, I have enjoyed editing this issue of ECR and hope you will find its content to be of interest and of assistance in your clinical endeavours.

I look forward to meeting at least some of you, our over 30,000 readers, in Barcelona at the Radcliffe Cardiology booth during the forthcoming meeting of the European Society of Cardiology. ■

Best wishes to all and everyone!

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15420/ecr.2019.14.1.F01>