
SYMPOSIUM ON QUALITY AND COST-CONSCIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR CARE: ROLE OF DECISION MODELING

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Preface

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Indianapolis, Indiana

This Symposium contains reports developed from presentations at the Regenstrief Conference entitled, "Quality and Cost-Conscious Cardiovascular Care: Role of Decision Modeling," held in October 1987 at McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, Indiana. The conference was sponsored by the Regenstrief Institute for Health Care in coordination with the Department of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine. It brought together more than 100 participants in an atmosphere that promoted the informal interchange of ideas, and included practicing internists and cardiologists, decision analysts, clinical epidemiologists, biostatisticians, sociologists, medical educators, administrators of hospitals and medical centers and representatives from the medical insurance and technology industries and quality review organizations. The purpose of the conference was to explore the role of and establish a future agenda for decision modeling in improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of cardiovascular care.

The conference was the second in a biannual series sponsored by the Regenstrief Institute for Health Care. The Institute is a privately endowed research organization that was founded in 1969 as a joint enterprise of the Regenstrief Foundation, Inc., the Indiana University School of Medicine and the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County. The Institute, which was the result of the joint visions of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel N. Regenstrief and Dr. John B. Hickam, was established to conduct research in the area of health

care delivery. It was the hope of the founders that the techniques of biomedical science, computer science and industrial engineering could be applied directly to health care settings to improve medical care, provide rational methods for marshaling resources and establish quantitative bases for arriving at complex medical decisions. These original goals, which are being aggressively pursued by Institute investigators, are even more relevant today to the health care environment than when the Institute was originally formed.

We warmly thank the individual participants at the conference for their enthusiastic support and contributions. In addition, we thank the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Physicians and the Society for Medical Decision Making for their official conference representation and participation. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the participants for their contributions to the conference and for persevering to prepare reports for this Symposium.

We gratefully acknowledge the additional financial contributions provided for the conference by the Krannert Institute of Cardiology, the Veterans Administration Great Lakes Regional Health Services Research and Development Field Program, Pfizer, Inc. and Eli Lilly and Company.

We thank several Institute staff members for their significant and conscientious contributions to the planning and conduct of this conference. These include our colleagues on the planning committee: Barry P. Katz, PhD, Stephen D. Roberts, PhD, David M. Smith, MD and William M. Tierney, MD. We appreciate the efforts of Maria Dibble, Shelly Glazener, Cindy Monk and Debbie Zink with preparations for the conference, and Terri Butcher and Mark Dame for their assistance in this Symposium. Special thanks go to Joanne Fox, Assistant to the Director, for outstanding orchestration of the arrangements for the conference.

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