HCI

HCI's Monthly Review of Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine & the Breast Imaging Industry

Volume IX, Issue 1, January 2017

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT

Robert J. Sidley
President, CEO
HeartCare Imaging, Inc.

Dear Colleague—

The 45th President of the United States was sworn in last week. Like so many other times when a new chief person in office changed but their party also changed we witnessed (unbelievable on one side and angst and despair on the other) the "turning" of the ship of state in a different direction. The ripple effect of our results and expectations will be felt throughout the entire country, the USA has thrived. There have been good times and there have been bad times. We've had elections during world and civil wars. Despite this, our country has continued to grow and prosper. This has happened, because at the end of the day we have in common is more than what divides us. HCI will follow the change closely to keep you informed regarding any changes in healthcare policy that might affect our industry. So, stay tuned.

In this month's newsletter I'd like to point out an article regarding rural rescues from higher likelihood of death as compared to urban residents. One of the issues is access to healthcare which is why HCI has been working with rural hospitals to provide needed diagnostic testing. In February, we will be a sponsor at the Rural Healthcare Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. If you are attending please stop by our booth.

We hope you enjoy the letter, please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

Best regards,

Bob

CARDIOLOGY

Anti-INFs Cut MI Risk in RA

Patients with rheumatoid arthritis who were treated with tumor necrosis factor inhibitors had a decreased risk of myocardial infarction compared with those receiving conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.

http://www.medpagetoday.com/meetings/wmirs/64395

Here's How Stress Might Cause Heart Attacks, Strokes

A new study using brain scans shows how stress might cause heart attacks: people who showed more stress in some active areas have a higher risk of stroke and heart attack.

http://www.dicomon.com/healthy-heart/here%E2%80%99s-how-stress-might-cause-heart-attacks-strokes-170000

Many Young Adults with High Cholesterol Not on Statins as Recommended

Guidelines suggest the meds could help ward off heart trouble, but too many people are missing out, study finds.

https://consumer.healthday.com/cholesterol-and-nutrition-information-237/high-cholesterol-health-news-654/many-young-adults-with-high-cholesterol-not-on-statins-as-recommended-710604.html

Study Ties Alcohol Abuse to Increased Heart Risks

Association similar to that from high blood pressure, smoking, obesity, and diabetes.

https://consumer.healthday.com/general-health-information-16/stress-adjustment-news-73/study-ties-alcohol-abuse-to-increased-heart-risks-710611.html

First High-Sensitivity Troponin Test Cleared by FDA

The FDA cleared the first in a new generation of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T (hs-cTnT) blood tests for rapid diagnosis of acute MI, Roche's Elecsys T2 Gen 3 STAT test, which can detect the presence of even very low-level myocardial injury, and applied cardiac troponin-T to pick up the marker of myocardial damage with a turn-around time of 9 minutes

http://www.medpagetoday.com/cardiology/chestpain/64394?utm%5Bmed

HEALTH

INSIDE in-beam PET monitors proton range

Hadron therapy is an advanced cancer treatment that employs beams of protons or carbon ions to deliver dose with sub-millimeter accuracy. The extreme precision of this approach, however, means that treatment can be compromised if the range of the charged particles differs from the treatment plan. As such, range verification techniques are under investigation, with PET imaging of positron emitters generated by the treatment beam already in clinical use.

http://medical.nature.com/naturematerials/vaop/ncurr/full/nmat4875.html

How epigenetic changes prime pancreatic cancer cells to spread

Scientists running a genome-wide analysis of pancreatic tumor samples have come up with a new way of looking at what drives cancer metastasis. They discovered that changes in the regulation of genes — not in DNA sequences — seem to be powering the cancer's spread.

http://www.ladyonc.com/2017/01/17/pancreatic-cancer-epi.html

Naval Research Seeks to Tackle Traumatic Brain Injury

The Office of Naval Research is spearheading the development of a technology to better analyze and diagnose the effects of traumatic brain injury.

http://www.mdtmedical.com/news/naval-research-seeks-to-tackle-traumatic-brain-injury

Tobacco Use Costs World 6 Million Lives, $1 Trillion Annually: Report

Higher prices, taxes would deter smoking and generate revenue, WHO and others say. Smoking kills about 6 million people a year, and costs the world more than $1 trillion in direct healthcare expenses and lost productivity.

http://consumer.healthday.com/public-health-information-30/health-care-news-699/tobacco-use-costs-world-6-million-lives-1-trillion-annually-report-710604.html

Patients with psoriasis associated with increased systemic arterial and subcutaneous adipose inflammation

Psoriasis is a chronic, inflammatory skin disorder associated with an increased risk for coronary artery disease, likely resulting from a systemic pro-inflammatory state. In addition to systemic inflammation, subcutaneous adipose tissue inflammation, which was contributive to the pathogenesis of psoriasis, is also associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Since the multiple associates demonstrated beneficial effects of anti-tumor necrosis factor-alpha treatment, the objective of this study was to assess the relationship between global vascular inflammation and subcutaneous adipose tissue inflammation in patients with moderate-to-severe psoriasis.

http://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcvm.2016.00037/abstract#.WHOMVVFOEZ0.twitter

Secondhand smoke can have negative effects before pregnancy

Study in rats shows exposure to secondhand smoke before conception can impact later fetal development.

http://news.wsu.edu/2016/12/20/secondhand-smoke-can-have-negative-effects-before-pregnancy/?utm%5Bmed%5D=1

http://consumer.healthday.com/public-health-information-30/health-care-news-699/secondhand-smoke-may-raise-risk-of-early-death-in-alzheimer-patients-710594.html

Antipsychotic Drugs May Up Risk of Early Death in Alzheimer's Patients

The new study confirms current recommendations that antipsychotic drugs should be used for the most difficult behavioral symptoms of dementia, such as agitation and aggression, and that length of use should be limited.

Is Dementia in Older Women Tied to 20-Year Rate of Weight Loss?

For women surviving into late life, the rate of weight loss over 20 years is associated with development of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or dementia, according to a study published online in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

http://www.physicianpractice.com/blog/ann-and-peter/13892

Scientists use Magnetic Stem Cells to Fight Cancer

Scientists have developed a technology to control mesenchymal stem cells in an effort to deliver cancer-killing drugs to tumors. Magnet-controlled microspheres with a drug inside are "captives" to the MSCs, which are a size of about 10 microns. An external magnet targets the cells to the tumor, where they deliver the encapsulated drug.

http://www.gen.com/news/-/news/2016/12/20/0/stem-cell-magnets-open-cells-to-fight-cancer/ZM1480027.72

Rural Americans are more likely to die from the top 5 causes of death

Rural Americans are more likely to die from heart disease, cancer and the three other leading causes of death than their urban counterparts, according to a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2017/01/03/rural-americans-more-likely-to-die-from-top-5-causes-of-death/?utm_term=.4c1d8f1c1a0a&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

BUSINESS

CMS Health Data Exchange Goals for Quality Payment Program

As part of its efforts tied to the quality payment program, the federal agency has listed increased health data exchange among its strategic objectives

http://healthitanalytics.com/news/cms-health-data-exchange-goals-for-quality-payment-program

CMS prepared Providers for 2016 Meaningful Use Attestation

CMS has issued meaningful use attestation worksheets to help eligible professionals and eligible hospitals prepare for reporting, expected to begin in January and last through February 2017. For all participants, the reporting period for modified stage 2 meaningful use is any continuous 90-day period within the calendar year.

https://healthitanalytics.com/news/cms-prepares-providers-for-2016-meaningful-use-attestation

Do your EHR manners turn patients off?

Technology has brought countless innovations to the practice of medicine. But such innovations come at a price. In the case of electronic health records (EHRs), that price is distraction during the patient-physician interaction

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/865802

POLITICS THAT AFFECT MEDICINE

Four GOP Senators introduce ACA replacement

The bill would repeal the individual mandate, the employer mandate, and Medicaid mandates, while keeping what Collins and Cassidy called essential consumer protections: banning annual and lifetime limits on coverage, pre-existing condition exclusions, and discrimination. The legislation also preserves guaranteed issue and renewability, allows young people to stay on their parents' plan until age 26, and maintains coverage for mental health and substance use disorders.

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/874846

12 reasons why 2017 could be a better year for you

Physicians may find a new and exciting year in 2017. Although it's easy to know for sure what will happen, the incoming Trump administration is likely to reduce some regulatory burdens on doctors, and Congress might consider new laws to help physicians.

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/874875

Trump's Health Plan Would Convert Medicaid to Block Grants, Aide Says

President Trump's plan to replace the Affordable Care Act will propose giving each state a fixed amount of federal money in the form of a block grant to provide health care to low-income people, an aide to Mike Pence said a top adviser to Mr. Trump said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/15/us/politics/donald-trump-health-plan-medicaid.html?_r=1&WT.mc_id=BN-KH-20170116&WT.tsrc=BN_KH_20170116&nl=breakingnews&nlid=64944444

EDUCATION/CONFERENCES

To remove your name from our mailing list or if you have any questions or comments, please email us at info@hearteasyimaging.com or call 585.798.6125.