

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT

Dear Colleague—

I'm very pleased to announce that HeartCare Imaging has been selected as one of *Modern Healthcare's* 2017 Best Places to Work in Healthcare! We value the people we work with every day and know that this award is a reflection of their commitment to quality healthcare for our patients and clients. We are fortunate to have clients that have the same commitment to quality care with whom we share this award. We will continue to look for ways to make HCI a great place to work by providing an excellent workplace, great benefits, and educational opportunities that will allow us to continue to improve individually and as a company.

This month's newsletter is heavy on content as we have had a number of meetings that have provided great new information regarding our industry. Please take the time to review and highlight the articles that will be helpful for you or your organization.

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

Best regards,



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

CARDIOLOGY

Resveratrol may reduce arterial stiffness in patients with diabetes

Carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity was numerically lower in the resveratrol group (P = .18) compared with those assigned placebo. Patients with higher arterial stiffness at the start of the study (n = 23) experienced reduced carotid-femoral pulse wave velocity without altering systemic BP when taking resveratrol 300 mg (9.1%) and resveratrol 100 mg (4.8%), whereas stiffness in the placebo group increased.

<http://www.healio.com/cardiology/vascular-medicine/news/online/378346485-90ea-4e06-8071-b69a0076497370/resveratrol-may-reduce-arterial-stiffness-in-patients-with-diabetes>

How Lancaster General Hospital go the nation's lowest heart failure readmission rate

The team's ability to form a strong relationship with patients is a key to its success, Rathman said, and Lancaster General's work to make everyone from social workers to dietitians to case managers available to high-risk patients who have difficulty traveling to appointments helps a lot too.

<http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/how-lancaster-general-hospital-got-the-nation-s-lowest-heart-failure-readmission-rate>

Higher death rate in women after ER stay for heart arrhythmias

"Women were more likely to be discharged from the emergency department than men for acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, stable angina, and chest pain. However, there are few data on the epidemiology of AFF in the emergency department setting, and sex differences are not well understood."

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2017/05/03/Higher-death-rate-in-women-after-ER-stay-for-heart-arrhythmias/

Many High-Risk Patients see no need to modify unhealthy lifestyle

"A substantial proportion of individuals at risk for cardiovascular events do not feel a need to improve their physical health, indicating an urgent need to identify means to modify public health perceptions and behaviors," Hibbert's group concluded in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

https://www.medpagetoday.com/Cardiology/Prevention/65006?xid=ml_mpl_DHE_2017-05-04&un=g1126350d0r&pos=2

CZT-based SPECT MPI may predict cardiac outcomes

Dutch researchers used the modality to confirm that the degree of abnormal myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI) increased along with the chances of these patients experiencing an adverse event within three years. CZT-based SPECT achieved the results with less radiation exposure for cardiac patients and no degradation in diagnostic image quality.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=rmol&pag=dis&itemid=117306>

Heart Failure could be as deadly as cancer

"The adverse outcomes associated with heart failure have drawn comparisons with those of cancer amongst many commentators, including international cardiological societies," the authors wrote in the study.

<http://www.cardiovascularbusiness.com/topics/practice-management/quality/heart-failure-could-be-just-deadly-cancer-news-research-shows>

Comorbid Congestive Heart Failure Linked to Worse Outcomes when Receiving Parenteral Nutrition

Patients who received parenteral nutrition experienced increased negative outcomes throughout their hospital stay when they also had comorbid congestive heart failure (HF), according to research presented at the 26th American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AAACE) Annual Scientific Sessions & Clinical Congress, May 3-7, in Austin, Texas.

http://www.endocrinologyadvisor.com/aaace_2017/congestive-heart-failure-poor-hospital-outcomes/article/654633/

1 in 3 Americans May Have had Warning Stroke Without Knowing it

Most adults who had at least one sign of a "mini" stroke — a temporary blockage also known as a transient ischemic attack (TIA) — waited or rested until symptoms had faded instead of calling 911 right away, according to the research from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA).

<https://consumer.healthday.com/cardiovascular-health-information-20/heart-stroke-related-stroke-25311-in-3-americans-may-have-had-warning-stroke-without-knowing-it-722170.html>

Consistently high BP seems to UP dementia, AD risk

The mid-to-late life trajectory risk of developing dementia was nearly twice as great among individuals who had persistently elevated blood pressure (BP) after age 55 and those people whose blood pressure was less than 140 mm Hg systolic and 90 mm Hg diastolic (hazard ratio 1.96, 95% CI 1.25-3.06), reported Emer McGrath, MBChB, PhD, of Brigham & Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, and colleagues.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/aan/64930>

HEALTH

Low-dose aspirin linked to lower breast cancer risk, study says

More potential good news for people who regularly take a low-dose aspirin: Women who took one had a lower risk of breast cancer, according to a study published in the *Journal Breast Cancer Research* on Monday.

<http://edilicon.com/2017/05/01/health/breast-cancer-aspirin-risk-reduction-study/>

New Gene Therapy Shrinks Aggressive Tumors in Mice

A CRISPR-based gene therapy that targets cancerous fusion genes—hybrid genes that are formed when two previously distinct genes join together—shrinks aggressive forms of liver and prostate cancers in mice. In the study, published Monday (May 1) in *Nature Biotechnology*, Luo and colleagues set their sights on two fusions genes they had previously found to be associated with prostate cancer and various forms of rapid and invasive cancer, including liver tumors. Using a modified CRISPR-Cas9 tool that creates a single- rather than double-stranded break in DNA, they targeted the chromosomal breakpoints that form these fusion genes and replaced fusion DNA with a gene encoding the enzyme HSV1-tk.

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles/view/articleNo/49329/title/New-Gene-Therapy-Shrinks-Aggressive-Tumors-in-Mice/>

PET/CT bests contrast CT at monitoring metastatic breast cancers

PET/CT is superior to contrast-enhanced CT when it comes to predicting both progression-free and disease-specific survival in patients with metastatic breast cancer, according to a study published online May 1 in the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*.

<http://www.healthimaging.com/topics/womens-health/breast-imaging/petct-bests-contrast-ct-monitoring-metastatic-breast-cancers>

Good Relationships linked to lower dementia risk

Having a reliable, approachable and understanding relationship with spouse or partner, children and other immediate family members may put older adults at a reduced risk of developing dementia, says a study.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/good-relationships-linked-to-lower-dementia-risk-117050200818_1.htm

Exercise May Boost Survival in CRC: Gastro and Endo News Report

Here's yet another reason to exercise. Being more physically active appears to improve survival in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer, according to new research.

https://www.medpagetoday.com/Gastroenterology/GeneralGastroenterology/64995?xid=ml_mpl_DHE_2017-05-04&un=g1126350d0r&pos=3

Surveillance colonoscopy linked to lower CRC incidence in at-risk patients

Follow-up surveillance colonoscopy after resection of intermediate-risk adenomas was associated with a reduced incidence of colorectal cancer in the U.K., according to research published in the *Lancet Oncology*.

<http://www.healio.com/gastroenterology/oncology/news/online/378eb429e4a-7301-4791-8f49-8f1981e43b18a%7D/surveillance-colonoscopy-linked-to-lower-crc-incidence-in-at-risk-patients>

Study finds measurable boost for aging brains from exercise

Standardized neuropsychological tests showed that, compared with non-exercisers, cognitive functioning improved in those who did aerobic or resistance exercise, regardless of cognitive abilities at the start of the study and including those with mild cognitive impairment. Moderate to vigorous physical exercise for 45 to 60 minutes, no matter how frequent, yielded the greatest benefit. Tai chi also improved cognitive function.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/study-finds-measurable-boost-for-aging-brains-from-exercise/2017/04/28/07d7f745e-2b73-11e7-b605-33413c691853_story.html?utm_term=.047020955be11wpjiscr-nl_sb_smartbrief

PET probe shows promise for cancer treatment evaluation

In the approach, PET is used to measure a protein known as granzyme B, which is released by immune cells to kill cancer cells. The technique could help determine which immune checkpoint inhibitors worked or failed in the course of early cancer treatment in mouse and human tumors (*Cancer Res*, April 30, 2017, Vol. 77:9, pp. 2318-2327).

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=rmol&pag=dis&itemid=117255>

Italian-style Coffee may reduce risk of prostate cancer

A study of 7,000 Italian men found that drinking more than three Italian-style coffee drinks a day reduces risk of prostate cancer by 50 percent. Researchers went on to confirm the results by testing the action of coffee extracts on prostate cancer cells of caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee in laboratory studies.

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2017/04/26/Italian-style-coffee-may-reduce-risk-of-prostate-cancer/2231493708934/?utm_source=sec&utm_campaign=sl&utm_medium=8

Some TBI Patients Show Dopamine Pathway Deficits

A subset of patients experiencing cognitive problems following traumatic brain injury (TBI) show evidence of diminished dopaminergic activity, suggesting that dopamine-enhancing therapies such as those used in Parkinson's disease might be useful, a researcher said here.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/aan/64760>

Novel MPI agent shows promise in imaging lung perfusion in rats

Researchers in the US have invented an imaging agent that allows magnetic particle imaging (MPI) of lung perfusion in rats. The test bodes well for the clinical use of MPI, which unlike other lung-imaging techniques delivers no ionizing radiation and only requires small amounts of the agent to be injected.

<http://medicalphysicsweb.org/cws/article/research/68563>

Linear Association for Weight Loss, HbA1c Reduction in Type 2 Diabetes

Anders Gummesson, M.D., from Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden, and colleagues conducted a systematic review of the literature to identify prospective trials of energy-reduced diets, obesity drugs, or bariatric surgery in adult overweight and obese patients with type 2 diabetes. The authors developed a linear model to describe the effect of weight reduction on HbA2c based on data from three to 24 months of follow-up. Data were include for 58 articles with 124 treatment groups and 17,204 adults.

<http://www.physiciansbriefing.com/Article.asp?ID=721826>

Fred Hutch designs treatment for tough-to-treat cancers, president says

The treatment, which aims the human immune system at metastatic cancers, is called CAR-T cell therapy, according to KIRO-AM. CAR-T cell therapy has been used with about 200 patients at Fred Hutch with good results. "Most cases, these are patients who have no other hope for treatment, that have been through all the other treatments that we have to offer, and still have cancer," Fred Hutch president Gary Gilliard told KIRO.

<http://www.thenewtribune.com/news/local/article48190189.html>

BUSINESS

Recordkeeping Stress Hurts Patient Care, Say Experts

The healthcare system works best if patients aren't solely responsible for managing their health records and other data, several speakers said here at the Health Datapalooza meeting sponsored by Academy Health.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/practicemanagement/practicemanagement/64952>

CMS gives 800,000 docs a pass on MACRA requirements

More than 800,000 clinicians will not have to comply with Merit-based Incentive Payment System reporting requirements outlined in MACRA, which may save them millions collectively in compliance costs. The majority of physician practices were expected to use the Merit-based Incentive Payment System known as MIPS, to comply with MACRA as opposed to alternative pay models. Under MIPS, payments would be based on a compilation of quality measures and use of electronic health records. The CMS has now sent letters to 806,879 clinicians saying that they will not be evaluated under MIPS in 2017.

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/2017/05/11/NEWS/170519964/cms-gives-800000-docs-a-pass-on-macra-requirements>

POLITICS THAT AFFECT MEDICINE

Senators Reintroduce Legislation to Expand Use of Telehealth under Medicare

"Telehealth is the future of health care. It expands access to care, lowers costs, and helps more people stay healthy," Senator Schatz said in a statement. "Our bipartisan bill will help change the way patients get the care they need, improving the health care system for both patients and health care providers."

<https://www.healthcare-informatics.com/news-items/telemedicine/senators-reintroduce-legislation-expand-use-of-telehealth-under-medicare>

Divisions emerge in the Senate on Pre-existing conditions

Among the regulations at issue are ObamaCare's "community rating" provision, which prevents people with pre-existing conditions from being charged higher premiums due to their health, and "essential health benefits," which mandate that insurance plans cover a range of services like mental healthcare and prescription drugs.

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/334620-divisions-emerge-in-the-senate-on-pre-existing-conditions>

Senate Panel Approves Bill Revamping Medicare for Chronically Ill Patients

The bill, which is backed by the American Heart Association and dozens of other industry groups, would revamp how Medicare works for patients who have chronic medical conditions. Specifically, the bill is aimed at reducing costs associated with chronic illness by giving people greater access to telehealth services, promoting care coordination between providers and expanding value-based payment models.

<https://morningconsult.com/2017/05/18/senate-panel-approves-bill-revamping-medicare-chronically-ill-patients/>

EDUCATION / CONFERENCES

Professional Online Training

100% money-back satisfaction guarantee

Accepted by NRC & agreement states

Courses offered include:

- 120 Hour Nuclear Cardiology License Prep
- 20 Hour Radiation Training and Review
- 40 Hour Radiation Safety Officer Training
- 80 Hour Radiology Course
- 80 Hour Endocrinology course

Call us at 1.800.969.4774 | Visit us at www.hrsiseminars.com

To remove your name from our mailing list or if you have any questions or comments, please email us at info@heartcareimaging.com or call 561.746.6125

SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE AND MOLECULAR IMAGING
ANNUAL MEETING
June 10-14, 2017 **Denver, Colorado**