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DESCRIPTION

As the leader in its field, JACC publishes original peer-reviewed clinical and experimental reports on all aspects of cardiovascular disease. Topics covered include coronary artery and valve disease, congenital heart defects, vascular surgery, cardiomyopathy, drug treatment, new diagnostic techniques, findings from the laboratory, and large multicenter studies of new therapies. JACC also publishes abstracts of papers presented at the annual scientific sessions of the American College of Cardiology and the reports and recommendations of the Bethesda Conferences on current topics in cardiovascular disease.

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**The Present and Future: State-of-the-Art Review:** As with all submissions to *JACC*, State-of-the-Art Reviews should focus on the patient. From basic mechanisms to clinical manifestations and interventional approaches to global health implications, such manuscripts will focus on a contemporary, controversial, or translational topic with 4 to 5 major sections written by multiple authors or author groups.

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Both Research Letters and Letters to the Editor are published under the heading “Letters.” You may submit original investigations of a focused nature as a research letter.
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Focus on a specific manuscript that has appeared in JACC. Letters must be submitted within 3 months of the print issue date of the article. We will seek a reply to your letter from the authors of the original paper and publish together, when possible. Letters on Editorial Comments or previously published correspondence, including research letters, will not be considered.

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Fellows-in-Training & Early Career Page
These articles are a maximum of 1,500 words and focus on topics that are of unique relevance to FITs and the younger cardiologist community. However, the submissions must be substantive, engaging in hard-hitting topics that impact their daily practice. In terms of style, they must be formal in their presentation, as these are not blogs, and include citations (if relevant). Also, we would encourage specificity when choosing a topic on which to write, as opposed to something that is too broad to have true impact. All authors must be within 10 years of medical school. Please note that these articles will be reviewed and may be rejected by the JACC Editors. These should NOT be submitted online but e-mailed to jacc@acc.org.

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The entire manuscript (including tables) should have 1-inch margins and use Times New Roman 12 pt as the font. The title and abstract pages, including keywords and abbreviations, should be single-spaced. All text from the introduction to the end (including tables) should be double-spaced. Page numbering should start with the title page. Page 1: Title page Page 2: Abstract, Condensed Abstract, Key Words, Abbreviations list Text Perspectives: Core Clinical Competencies and Translational Outlook implications (on a separate page after the conclusions, and only for Original Investigation submissions) References Figure titles and legends, including a title and caption for the Central Illustration (if necessary) Tables, each on a separate page Figures Supplemental material Page numbering should begin with the title page.

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The order in which these items appear should also be the order in which they appear in your submission.

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Provide a structured abstract of no more than 250 words for Original Investigations, presenting essential data in 5 paragraphs introduced by separate headings in the following order: Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions. All data in the abstract also must appear in the manuscript text or tables. For general information on preparing structured abstracts, see “Haynes RB, Mulrow CD, Huth EJ, Altman DG, Gardner MJ. More informative abstracts revisited. Ann Intern Med 1990;113:6976.”
An unstructured 150-word abstract should be provided for either type of review article.

Keywords
Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 key words, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, ‘and’, ‘of’). Be sparing with abbreviations. These key words will be used for indexing purposes, and therefore should be different than the terms/words already used in the title of the paper.

Abbreviations
Up to 10 abbreviations of common terms (e.g., ECG, PTCA, CABG) or acronyms (GUSTO, SOLVD, TIMI) may be used throughout the manuscript. On a separate page following the abstract, list the selected abbreviations and their definitions (e.g., TEE ≡ transesophageal echocardiography). The editors will determine which lesser-known terms should not be abbreviated. Consult “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (ICMJE Recommendations),” available at http://www.icmje.org, for appropriate use of units of measure.

Text
Use Times New Roman 12-pt font. The text should be structured as: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions. Use headings and subheadings in the Methods, Results, and, particularly in the Discussion sections. Every reference, figure, and table should be cited in the text in numerical order according to order of mention.

Clinical Perspectives
The authors should delineate clinical competencies and translational outlook recommendations for their manuscripts. These competencies should not restate the questions underlying the work but describe the implications of the study and how the new information can be integrated into current practice based on the 6 domains delineated by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and adopted by the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF). These should be listed in the manuscript after the text and before the references. Please review the examples provided below. The competencies describe the implications of the study for current practice. The translational outlook places the work in a futuristic context, emphasizing directions for additional research.

Clinical Competencies
Competency-based learning in cardiovascular medicine addresses the 6 domains promulgated by the ACGME and endorsed by the American Board of Internal Medicine (Medical Knowledge, Patient Care and Procedural Skills, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Systems-Based Practice, Practice-Based Learning, and Professionalism) (http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb). The ACCF has adopted this format for its competency and training statements, career milestones, lifelong learning, and educational programs. The ACCF also has developed tools to assist physicians in assessing, enhancing, and documenting these competencies (http://www.acc.org/education-and-meetings/products-and-resources/competencies). Authors are asked to consider the clinical implications of their report and identify applications in one or more these competency domains that could be used by clinician-readers to enhance their competency as professional caregivers. This applies not only to physicians-in-training, but to the sustained commitment to education and continuous improvement across the span of their professional careers.

Translational Outlook
Translating biomedical research from the laboratory bench, clinical trials, or global observations to the care of individual patients can expedite discovery of new diagnostic tools and treatments through multidisciplinary collaboration. Effective translational medicine facilitates implementation of evolving strategies for prevention and treatment of disease in the community. The Institute of Medicine identified two areas needing improvement: testing basic research findings in properly designed clinical trials and, once the safety and efficacy of an intervention has been confirmed, more efficiently promulgating its adoption into standard practice (Sung NS, Crowley WF, Genel M. The meaning of translational research and why it matters. JAMA 2008;299:3140-8). The National Institutes
of Health (NIH) has recognized the importance of translational biomedical research, emphasizing multifunctional collaborations between researchers and clinicians to leverage new technology and accelerate the delivery of new therapies to patients (http://www.ncats.nih.gov/about/about.html). Authors are asked to place their work in the context of the scientific continuum, by identifying impediments and challenges requiring further investigation and anticipating next steps and directions for future research.

Clinical Trials
EXAMPLE 1: For a Clinical Trial [N Engl J Med 2012;367:2375-84]:

Translational Science Studies

PERSPECTIVES

Competency in Medical Knowledge: Inflammation is one of the major determinants of atherosclerotic plaque instability. Positron emission tomography with F18-labeled FDG has been employed for the identification of the macrophages in high-risk patients. Imaging with mannose, the isomer of glucose, may have an advantage because a subset of macrophages in high-risk plaques develop mannose receptors.

Translational Outlook 1: Although circulating biomarkers of inflammation, such as hs-CRP, provide reliable information of systemic inflammation, detection of inflammation at the plaque level may allow identification of the high-risk plaques.

Translational Outlook 2: Plaque imaging with sugars, although feasible, must in a randomized fashion investigate whether treatment of individual high-risk plaques would favorably influence major adverse outcomes in atherosclerotic disease.

Meta-Analysis or Review Article
EXAMPLE 3: For a Meta-Analysis or a Review Article [Lancet 2014;383:955-62]:

PERSPECTIVES

Competency in Medical Knowledge 1: Selection of antithrombotic therapy for prevention of thromboembolism in patients with atrial fibrillation must consider several clinical factors, including the patient's values and preferences.

Competency in Medical Knowledge 2: The oral direct thrombin inhibitor, dabigatran, and factor Xa inhibitors, rivaroxaban, apixaban, and edoxaban (so-called novel oral anticoagulants or NOACs) avoid the dietary restrictions and need for routine coagulation monitoring that are cumbersome aspects of anticoagulation with vitamin K antagonists such as warfarin.

Competency in Patient Care: All 3 NOACs currently approved for clinical use in the United States represent advances over warfarin because of their more predictable pharmacological profiles, fewer drug interactions, and considerably lower risk of intracranial bleeding than warfarin, but these advantages come at greater monetary cost, and there is presently no approved antidote or validated strategy rapid reversal of anticoagulation induced by any of the NOACs.

Competency in Interpersonal & Communication Skills: It is important to discuss the available options with patients who are candidates for the newer agents.

Translational Outlook 1: The mechanism by which each of the NOACs evaluated to date cause less intracerebral hemorrhage than well-managed warfarin anticoagulation requires further investigation.

Translational Outlook 2: Additional research is needed to understand the safety and efficacy of the NOACs, alone or in combination in patients with mechanical prosthetic heart valves to overcome the toxicity of this type of anticoagulation in the limited studies undertaken to date that contraindicate their use in patients who have undergone heart valve replacement with mechanical prostheses.

REFERENCES

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