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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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AUDIENCE

Specialists in Cardiovascular and Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Surgery, Pediatric Cardiology, and General and Family Practitioners. For detailed, current information, browse the JACC Homepage http://www.cardiosource.com/jacc.html. Here you will find the current table of contents, complete with abstracts and full-text articles (for individual print subscribers), references, tables and figures. The JACC Homepage also features other important information on permissions, advertising contacts, and other related products. Come browse the leading web site for cardiologists at http://www.cardiosource.com/jacc.html.

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INTRODUCTION
The Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) publishes peer-reviewed articles highlighting all aspects of cardiovascular disease, including original investigations, experimental investigations with clear clinical relevance, state-of-the-art papers, and viewpoints. Manuscript submissions should conform to the guidelines set forth in the “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (ICMJE Recommendations),” available online at http://www.icmje.org and most recently updated in December 2015.

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JACC publishes the following manuscript types: State-of-the-Art Reviews, Review Topics of the Week, Original Investigations, Research Letters, Letters to the Editor, and Fellows-in-Training & Early Career pages. We also publish Editorial Comments for each Original Investigation, although these are specifically invited by the editorial board and should not be submitted as unsolicited articles. In general, case reports will not be considered for publication.

Proposals for both State-of-the-Art Reviews and Review Topics of the Week should first be emailed to the editorial office at jacc@acc.org to determine if the editor is interested in considering your review for publication. The majority of reviews are solicited by the editors, however, proposals may be considered.

State-of-the-Art Review
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.

Word count: no more than 10,000 words (text from the introduction to the conclusion, plus references and figure legends) Abstract: Unstructured and no more than 150 words Condensed Abstract: No more than 100 words, stressing clinical implications Figure Limit: None Table Limit: None Central Illustration: Required Clinical Perspectives: Not required

Please be sure you have obtained or will obtain permission for previously published tables, figures, or any material for which you cannot grant copyright.

Review Topic of the Week
The Present and Future: Review Topic of the Week: As with all submissions to JACC, Review Topics of the Week should focus on the patient. They provide a literature review on a contemporary topic of basic, translational, or clinical science. Such manuscripts may be written by a single author or an author group.

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JACC Original Investigations should relate to cardiovascular science and medicine that may include studies conducted in humans or analyses of human data, or novel preclinical studies with direct clinical relevance that significantly advance the field.

Word count: No more than 5,000 words (text from the introduction to the conclusion, plus references and figure legends). If you are asked to revise your paper, the editors may specify an alternate word limit. Abstract: Structured with the following headings and no more than 250 words: Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions. The abstract should present essential data in 5 paragraphs. Use complete sentences. 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;113:69-76.” Figure/Table Limit: None Central Illustration: Required Clinical Perspectives: Required

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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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References: No more than 5
Authors: No more than 10
Figures/Tables: 1 figure (in no more than 2 parts) or 1 table
Online or Supplemental Material: Not permitted.

**Letters to the Editor and Replies**
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.

Word count: No more than 400 words, including references
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**Editorial Comments**
The editors invite all Editorial Comments published in the Journal. If you are invited to write an editorial, specific requirements will be sent to you. Please do not submit unsolicited editorials.

**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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Cover Letter: A short paragraph telling the editors why the authors think their paper merits publication may be included in the cover letter. Potential reviewers may be suggested in the cover letter, as well as reviewers to avoid. However, final reviewer assignment is determined by the editors. Rebuttal Letter (revisions or appeals only) Manuscript file (see individual manuscript types and Manuscript Content for specific formatting, and you may also email jacc@acc.org for a template on how to format your submission)
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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. 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.

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Use the following style and punctuation for references:
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Material presented at a meeting but not published. Provide authors, presentation title, full meeting title, meeting dates, and meeting location. EXAMPLE: “20. Eisenberg J. Market forces and physician workforce reform: why they may not work. Paper presented at: Annual Meeting of the Association of Medical Colleges; October 28, 1995; Washington, DC.”

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