

# Introduction

This issue of the MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA QUARTERLY is devoted to the publication of the proceedings of the Cardiac Arrhythmias Symposium held at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia from June 8-10, 1972. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Council on Clinical Cardiology of the American Heart Association and the Tidewater Heart Association. This was the second cardiovascular program to be held within a year in which Medical College of Virginia faculty members, teamed with a guest faculty of national recognition, provided a review of basic and clinical aspects in the field of cardiac arrhythmias. Approximately three hundred persons, including physicians and nurses, attended the meeting which utilized a format of formal presentations, panel discussions, and evening workshops. The first meeting, a Cardiac Pacing Symposium, was held in Williamsburg, Virginia on April 16 and 17, 1971. The proceedings of this program were published by the MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA QUARTERLY in Volume Seven, Number Four, 1971.

The reason for such emphasis upon the field of cardiac arrhythmias is primarily due to the fact that there has been an awakened interest in recent years in the problem of sudden death. It is now being appreciated that a significant number of

deaths attributed to cardiovascular disease are due to cardiac arrhythmias, a potentially correctable disorder.

The success of the meeting would not have been possible without the able support of Mr. Melvin Shaffer and his Audio-Visual Department. I would also like to express my appreciation to the co-directors, Dr. Eugene M. Wyso, Dr. William A. Dickinson, Jr., and Dr. Robley D. Bates, for their assistance in the development of the program. The electrocardiographic materials were provided by cardiovascular fellows of the Cardiovascular Division of the Department of Medicine and the coronary care unit nursing staffs of both the Medical College of Virginia Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. In addition, I would like to thank the editorial staff of the MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA QUARTERLY, which included Miss Mary Parke Johnson, Mrs. Nancy Varmette, and Miss Stuart Gravatt, as well as my own secretaries, Mrs. Barbara Hendrick and Mrs. Marty Eagle, whose efforts will never be forgotten.

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