

Dr Nicolas Shammass and sub-investigators at the Midwest Cardiovascular Research Foundation will be presenting seven abstracts at Cardiovascular Revascularization Therapies (CRT 2008), February 11-13, 2008 in Washington DC. This international conference hosts a large number of investigators and endovascular specialists from all over the world and is focused on the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Highlights of the findings of the research that will be presented by Dr Shammass include the following:

1. MCRF Investigators identified that clots are highly prevalent in lower extremity vasculature in patients with recent symptoms (< 6 months) and with totally occluded or subtotally occluded vessels and that the Power-Pulse Spray technique is partially effective in dissolving the clots in about 2/3rd of these patients.
2. MCRF investigators also identified that macrodebris occurs at high rates during angioplasty of the lower legs particularly with SilverHawk atherectomy and that embolic filter protection is effective in reducing the chance of this migrating downstream to the lower legs.
3. MCRF investigators identified that atherectomy can reduce stent utilization during the treatment of the lower extremity vasculature compared to balloon angioplasty alone
4. MCRF investigators reviewed data on the application of drug eluting stents in bifurcating coronary artery disease and showed that the off label stenting of these bifurcations appears acceptable with a relatively low complication rates, findings in line with published data. Treatment of the main branch with provisional treatment of the side branch was at least equally effective than having to stent both branches with a trend toward less complications
5. MCRF investigators also analyzed the pattern of applying GPIIB/IIIa inhibitors in the lower legs and noted that they are predominantly used as a bail out after angioplasty or in a smaller number of high risk patients as an upfront therapy. The overall use of these drugs was relatively safe in the lower legs with low bleeding complication rates.

Many of the MCRF investigators are practicing physicians with Cardiovascular Medicine, PC including Dr Nicolas Shammass (Director), Dr Eric Dippel (Associate Director), Dr Peter Sharis and Dr Jon Robken.



Dr Shammass, Director



Dr. Dippel (Associate Director)



Dr. Robken



Dr. Sharis



Dr. Foreman

Recently MCRF opened Electrophysiology based research with Dr. Foreman spearheading the effort. "CVM physicians have been instrumental in making this non profit research and education foundation a national success" says Dr Shammass. "We are pleased to see that the physicians and the community have realized the importance and the effectiveness of this foundation in moving cardiovascular medicine and education forward. We are also certainly excited about the major level of involvement of CVM physicians in the educational efforts of this foundation including our annual Cardiovascular Intervention and Practice Guidelines conference'. The foundation enjoys the tremendous support of a highly dedicated staff including its research coordinators Denise Coiner, Penny Stoakes and Laura Gayton; assistant