

PREFACE

Integration of cardiac biomarkers into clinical care has been accelerating at a dramatic pace. As novel applications of established biomarkers are tested and new markers complete development, the value of cardiac biomarkers for supporting clinical decision making is achieving greater recognition. This progress in the use of biomarkers is likely to gain even greater momentum in the era of personalized medicine. With expansion of the number and types of biomarkers available, the opportunity to improve diagnosis, risk stratification, and selection of therapy using these noninvasive, affordable tools continues to grow. Congruent with this evolution, the practicing clinician will benefit from a thorough understanding of the biology, technology, and clinical evidence underlying the use of established and emerging biomarkers in cardiovascular disease.

Cardiovascular Biomarkers: Pathophysiology and Disease Management is aimed at meeting the needs not only of the practicing clinician but also the interests of clinician-scientists, medical trainees, and laboratorians. The book is divided into seven sections, each of which covers a major class of biomarkers (e.g., biomarkers of necrosis, biomarkers of inflammation, and biomarkers of hemodynamic stress). Each section begins with an overview of the biology and development of each major class, followed by a concise review of analytic issues important to the clinician, and then by a series of chapters written by internationally recognized experts who discuss clinical applications of the biomarkers. These latter chapters focus on the incorporation of biomarkers into the contemporary management of patients with cardiovascular disease, emphasizing clinical studies, evidence-based diagnostic algorithms, and critical pathways for triage and therapy, wherever they are applicable. In addition to an in-depth discussion of available markers, each section includes at least one chapter that looks forward with a view to the future of the class. The heavy use of figures, illustrations, and tables, as well as integration of the chapters, are aimed at making the key evidence and practical guidelines easily accessible to the reader.

On a personal note, it has been a tremendous privilege and pleasure to work with the exceptional group of experts who have contributed to this text, and I wish to thank each of them. Foremost, I wish to recognize the sage and nurturing mentorship of Drs. Eugene Braunwald and Elliott Antman who, through their vision and creativity, sparked my fascination with this field. To them and to my numerous colleagues in the TIMI Study Group and Cardiovascular Division at Brigham and Women's Hospital, who make this area of research engaging and exciting, I extend my deepest gratitude. Also, without Sylvia Judd, my Editorial Associate for this project, it simply would not have been possible.

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