
Preface

The inspiration for ‘Right Ventricular Physiology, Adaptation and Failure in Congenital and Acquired Heart Disease’ stemmed from the 3rd International RV Symposium held in Toronto. Many of its authors were invited speakers in that symposium, and all are leaders in their areas of expertise.

Paediatric cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons have been well aware of the importance of the right ventricle (RV) for many years, yet the RV is still sometimes characterised as the ‘forgotten ventricle’. However, it is evident from the explosion of research in the past decade or two that the RV is ‘coming of age’ and its importance increasingly recognised. Indeed, there have been substantial advances in basic research, diagnosis and management of a diverse array of conditions that affect the RV, and although our understanding of the RV is far from complete, it is considerably more comprehensive than just a few years ago.

Despite these advances in knowledge, to date, there has not been a written framework that provides a comprehensive review of RV embryology, physiology, function, failure and disease. This text aims to fill that gap, with state-of-the-art contributions from thought leaders in the field. The book incorporates a wide variety of topics including chapters that relate to early development, molecular adaptation to stress, interactions between the right and left ventricles, imaging, RV failure, neonatal conditions, congenital heart disease, interventional management and surgery. We hope these will be of interest to a wide audience of professionals including basic scientists, neonatologists, intensive care physicians, paediatric cardiologists, surgeons, heart failure specialists and specialists in adult congenital heart disease.

It is our hope that this ‘translational’ approach will not only be new and informative but will place the RV at the centre of discussion and research across disciplines that will bridge between scientists and clinicians to enrich and advance our field for the betterment of our patients.

The saying ‘it takes a village’ is particularly appropriate when producing a book such as this. Many people deserve our gratitude in helping this book come to fruition, including colleagues at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto; family, friends and colleagues from across the globe; and Noreen Adatia and Elektra McDermott for their administrative support.

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