

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 2/3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Recently MCRF opened Electrophysiology based research with Dr Blair 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 coordinator Lynn Kennedy; Monitoring coordinator Gail Shammass; manager Maureen Koepke; and Conference and public relations coordinator Jan Harper.

**Shammass NW, Dippel EJ, Gayton L, Coiner D, Shammass GA, Byrd J, Stoakes P.**  
Prevalence of Thrombus in Patients with a Recent History of Claudication or Rest Limb

Pain: An Intravascular Ultrasound Assessment. Presented at CRT 2008, February, Washington DC.

**Shammas NW**, Dippel EJ, Coiner D, Stoakes P, Gayton L, Shammas GA. Preventing Lower Extremity Distal Embolization Using Embolic Filter Protection: Results of the Pilot PROTECT Registry. Presented at CRT 2008, February, Washington DC.

**Shammas NW**, Dippel EJ, Coiner D, Gayton D, Shammas GA, Byrd J, Stoakes P. Safety and Effectiveness of the Power-Pulse Spray in Treating Patients with Recent Onset of Claudication and Limb Ischemia. Presented at CRT 2008, February, Washington DC.

**Shammas NW**, Dippel EJ, Shammas GA, Kumar A, Jerin M, Kennedy L. Utilization of GpIIb/IIIa inhibitors in Peripheral Percutaneous Interventions: Current Applications and in-Hospital Outcomes in a Tertiary Referral Center. Presented at CRT 2008, February, Washington DC.

**Shammas NW**, Dippel EJ, Sharis P, Robken J, Farland L, Brosius S, Jerin M, Avila A, Gehbauer L, Winter M, Shammas GA, Stoakes P, Byrd J, Kennedy L, Millette LA. Main Branch and Side Branch Stenting versus Provisional One Branch Stenting for Bifurcating Coronary Lesions using the Paclitaxel Drug-Eluting Stent: a single Center Experience with Intermediate term follow-up. Presented at CRT 2008, February, Washington DC.

**Shammas NW**, Coiner D, Shammas GA, Dippel EJ. Reduced Stent Utilization with Silverhawk Atherectomy versus Balloon Angioplasty in Patients Undergoing Peripheral Vascular Interventions: a Randomized Trial. Presented at CRT 2008, February, Washington DC.

**Shammas NW**, Dippel EJ, Sharis P, Robken J, Farland L, Brosius S, Jerin M, Avila A, Gehbauer L, Winter M, Shammas GA, Stoakes P, Byrd J, Kennedy L, Millette LA. Long Term Outcomes with Bifurcating Coronary Lesions Stenting using the Paclitaxel Drug-Eluting Stent: a Single Center Experience. Presented at CRT 2008, February, Washington DC.

In addition to the above,

Dr Shammas and Dr Sharis published recently the following manuscript :

**Sharis P, Shammas NW**. Evidence-based treatment of unprotected left main disease: a critical review of the literature. *Curr Atheroscler Rep*. 2007 Nov;9(5):397-400.

Also Dr Shammas has 2 reviews published Jan-Feb 2008 in *Vascular Disease Management*:

**Shammas NW**. Embolization in lower extremity percutaneous interventions: recommendations and strategies for embolic filter protection use. *Vascular Disease Management*, January/February, 2008; Vol 5.

**Shammas NW.** Peripheral Arterial Disease: book review. *Vascular Disease Management*, January/February, 2008; Vol 5.