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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Perceptions of Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators 3

Implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) are an effective preventative measure for sudden death in patients with cardiac ion channelopathies. There is limited research on the effects of ICDs on the quality of life and perceptions of patients with ICDs. Linder and colleagues surveyed 50 patients and families affected by inherited arrhythmias. Twenty-four participants specifically addressed ICDs during interviews and concerns were categorized into six key themes. Preliminary recommendations for counseling and educating patients with ICDs were formulated based on these findings.

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Orientation Program for Cardiology Fellows 15

The transition between internal medicine residency programs and fellowship programs is particularly challenging. Kaur and colleagues designed an intensive orientation program for cardiology fellows at a major academic medical center to study if self-confidence of fellows improved as compared to perceptions of previous fellows who had not experienced the orientation program. Of the 25 fellows surveyed, there was a significant immediate and sustained 6-month increase in confidence with medical skills and routine cardiology issues.

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

Commensal Microbiota and Intestinal Homeostasis 20

Commensal bacteria play a key role in the maintenance of intestinal and immune homeostasis. Microbiota protect against infection by competing with opportunistic and pathogenic bacteria, they break down food products, and they stimulate cell defense mechanisms. Scanduzzi reviews the current research in this field, including the translational focus on utilizing microbiota to modulate disease processes, as in the case of inflammatory bowel disease.

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Intestinal Villi
2013. Adina Haramati.

Editor-in-Chief
Michael Shusterman

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SCIENTIFIC REVIEW (continued)

What Have We Learned About Learning? 26

Learning is a complex process that humans depend upon as they advance from infancy to childhood. Yet the interactions between genetics and environment that form the neuronal pathways that enable us to learn are poorly understood. Krishnan and Carey review this extensive topic by integrating research from behavioral studies and modern neuroscience to address this multifaceted area.

Model-Based fMRI and Spatial Navigation 32

Spatial navigation, or the ability to remember and navigate environments, is a critical skill for humans and animals. Recent advances in fMRI have allowed for the investigation of spatial memory and navigation in humans. Tyson reviews the current literature on spatial navigation in the context of fMRI and computation modeling from lesion based analysis to new models and imaging modalities.

INNOVATIVE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Personal Accounts in Severe Mental Illness 40

The use of personal accounts in the education of medical students in psychiatry may help to prepare students for future clinical interactions. Woesner and Kidd present a sample curriculum employing personal accounts for use in a psychiatry clerkship for students. They argue that these narratives can help students to develop a broader sense of psychiatric patients.

CASE REPORT

Primary Eosinophilic Gastroenteritis 46

Physicians frequently encounter chronic diarrhea in their patients. Salamon and colleagues present an interesting case of primary eosinophilic gastroenteritis, an uncommon cause of chronic nonbloody diarrhea, in a 46 year old female with eosinophilia and repeated hospitalizations for nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

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This issue is dedicated to the memories of Dr. Richard M. Hays and Dr. Sharon Silbiger.