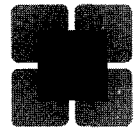

JAMES THOMAS, MD, EDITOR

New series: Cardiology Dialogues

With this issue of the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*, we institute a new section, "Cardiology Dialogues," which presents, in a dialogue format, a discussion between a member of the Cleveland Clinic Department of Cardiology and a visiting, internationally known investigator. The purpose is to present expert opinions on controversial and emerging topics in cardiac diagnosis and therapy that are of critical interest to practicing internists.

Among the topics to be discussed in future issues of the *Journal* are: emerging perspectives on atherogenesis and its prevention; appropriate uses of transesophageal echocardiography; and critical decision-making for medical vs surgical therapy in the treatment of coronary disease. By having two discussants for each topic, we hope to identify areas of agreement within the cardiology community, as well as areas where controversy still exists.

In our first installment, Dr. David Holmes, Director of the Catheterization Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic, discusses with Dr. Eric Topol, Chairman of the Cleveland Clinic Department of Cardiology, the relative merits of atherectomy vs angioplasty for percutaneous therapy of coronary artery disease. These two interventional cardiologists have been instrumental in developing the field of percutaneous revascularization and are ideally suited to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of coronary atherectomy and angioplasty.

JAMES THOMAS, MD
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The Cleveland Clinic Foundation