



Contemporary Clinical Treatment Options and Outcomes of Aortic Valve Disease

Guest Editors:

Dr. Mladen J. Kocica

UC Clinical Centre of Serbia,
Clinics for Cardiac Surgery,
Belgrade, Serbia

Dr. Igor Rudez

Department of Cardiac and
Transplant Surgery, Dubrava
University Hospital, Zagreb,
Croatia

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The aortic valve is not only anatomically located at the center of the heart, but the diseases of this valve are also becoming an important subject for cardiologists and surgeons. Although its function was generally thought to be entirely passive, contemporary investigations have brought completely new insight into the complex physiology of the aortic root, thus opening a new field related to the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of aortic valve diseases.

Since 1952, with the first Hufnagel aortic valve prosthesis implantation in descending thoracic aorta at Georgetown University, Washington DC, much has been accomplished in the field. Advances in science and technology, spanning from genetics and molecular biology to bioengineering and biotechnology, have opened new horizons in aortic valve disease diagnosis and treatment options. I believe that this Special Issue will help to clarify some important and current questions regarding clinical and surgical practice, and to induce inspiration and yield new insights into aortic valve disease science.

Dr. Mladen J. Kocica

Dr. Igor Rudez

