



*LEADING MEDICINE:*  
**A TOWN HALL CONVERSATION**  
WITH DR. MARC BOOM

Town Hall Conversation XXXIX

HOUSTON  
**Methodist**<sup>®</sup>  
LEADING MEDICINE

# Genetics of Heart Failure

Cindy M. Martin, MD

September 28, 2023

# Burden of Heart Failure

- About 6.5 million Americans over the age of 20 and more than 26 million people worldwide have heart failure
- More than 960,000 new cases per year in US
- At 40 years of age, the lifetime risk of developing HF for both men and women is 1 in 5
- Prevalence projected to increase by 48% and direct medical costs to reach \$53 billion by 2030
- **About half** of people who develop heart failure **die within 5 years** of diagnosis



# Universal Definition and Classification of Heart Failure (HF)

## Definition

HF is a *clinical syndrome* with current or prior

- *Symptoms and or signs caused by a structural and/or functional cardiac*

And corroborated by at least one of the following:

- *Elevated natriuretic peptide levels*
- *Objective evidence of cardiogenic pulmonary or systemic congestion*

## Stages

### AT RISK (STAGE A)

Patients at risk for HF, but without current or prior symptoms or signs of HF and without structural cardiac changes or elevated biomarkers of heart disease

### PRE-HF (STAGE B)

Patients without current or prior symptoms or signs of HF with evidence of one of the following:

- *Structural Heart Disease*
- *Abnormal cardiac function*
- *Elevated natriuretic peptide or cardiac troponin levels*

### HF (STAGE C)

Patients with current or prior symptoms and/or signs of HF caused by a structural and/or functional cardiac abnormality

### ADVANCED HF (STAGE D)

Severe symptoms and/or signs of HF at rest, recurrent hospitalizations despite GDMT, refractory or intolerant to GDMT, requiring advanced therapies transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, or palliative care

## Classification By EF

### HF with reduced EF (HFrEF)

- *HF with LVEF < 40%*

### HF with mildly reduced EF (HFmrEF)

- *HF with LVEF 41-49%*

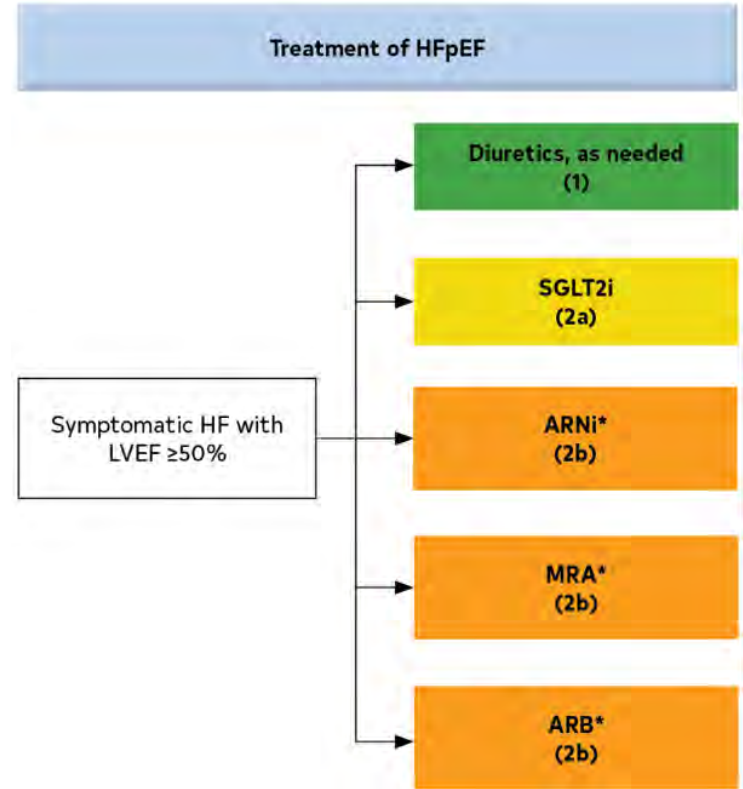
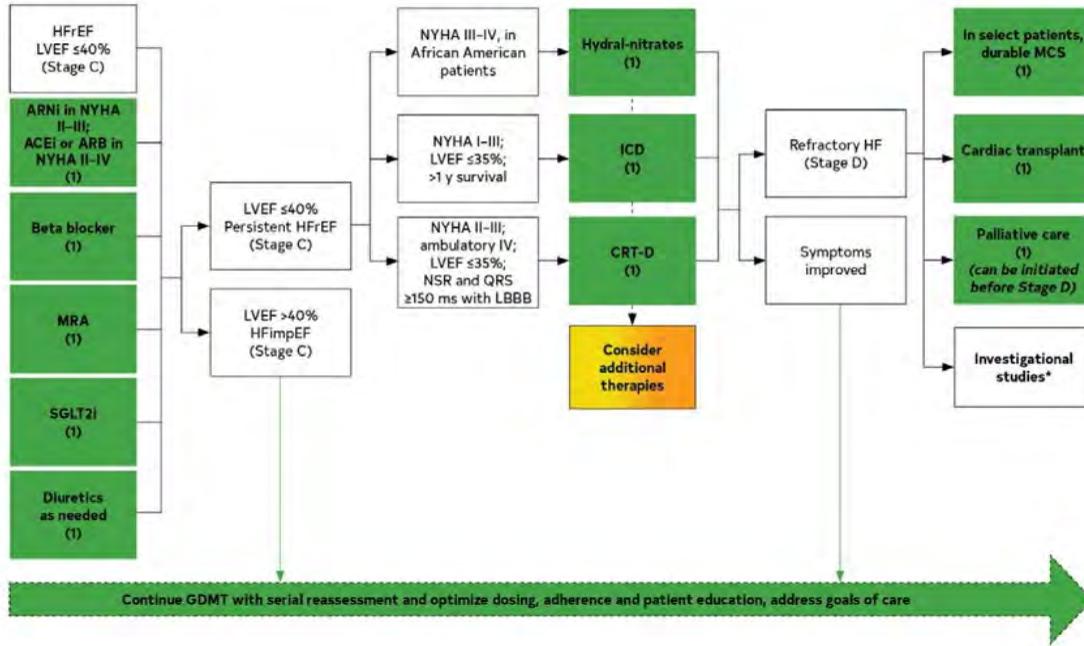
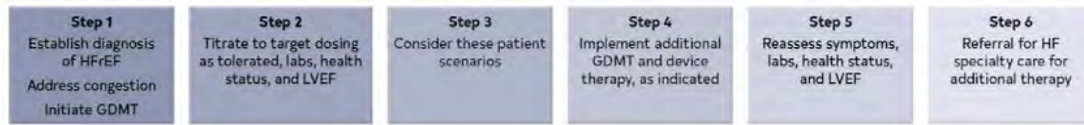
### HF with preserved EF (HFpEF)

- *HF with LVEF > 50%*

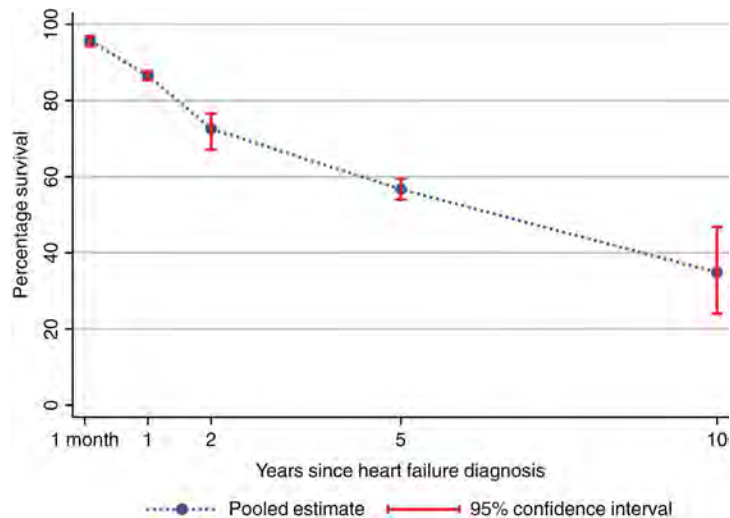
### HF with improved EF (HFimpEF)

- *HF with a baseline LVEF of < 40%, a 10-point increase from baseline LVEF, and a second measurement of LVEF of > 40%*

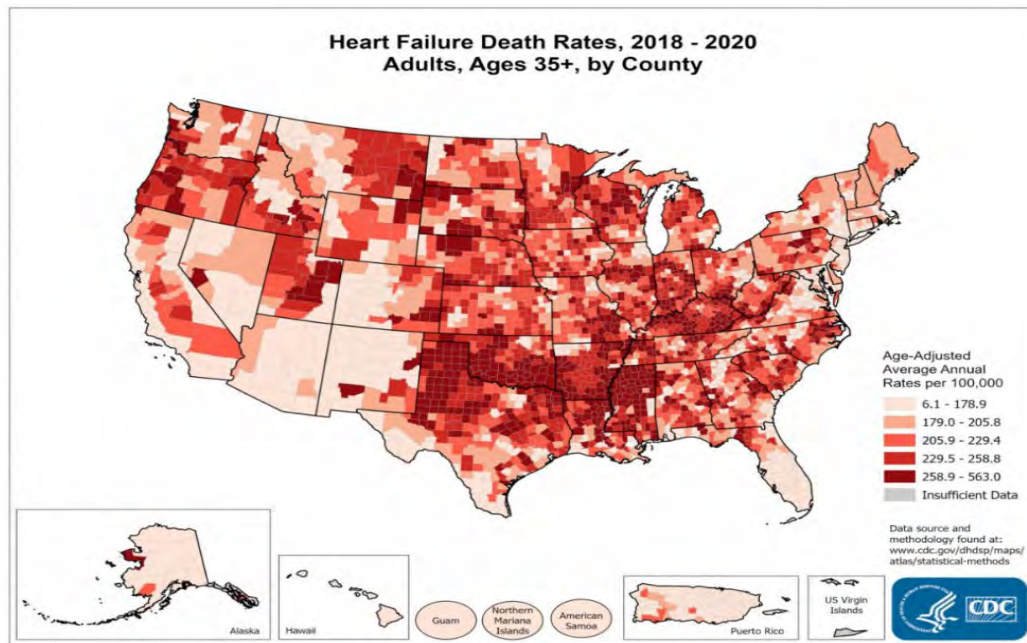
# ACC/AHA HF Treatment Guidelines



# Mortality of All-Cause Heart Failure

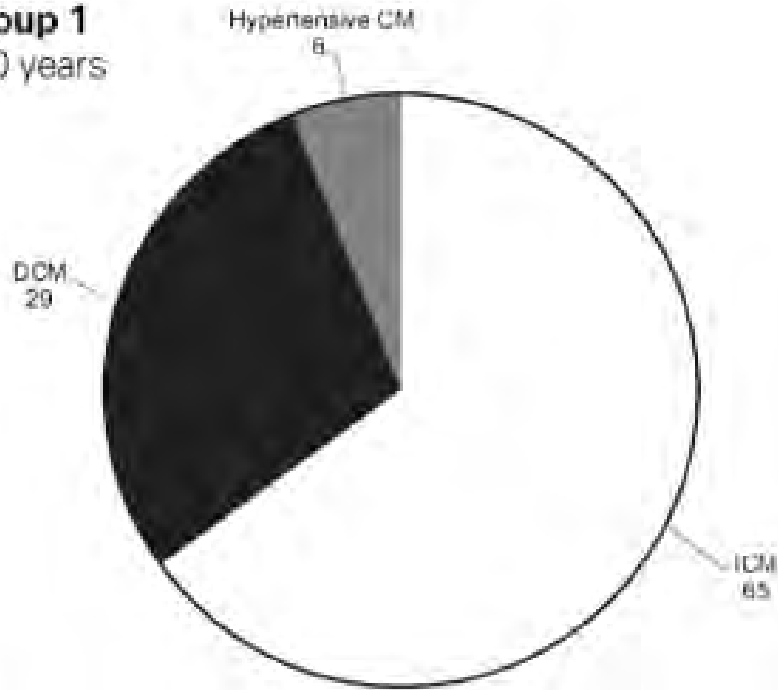


European J of Heart Fail, Volume: 21, Issue: 11, Pages: 1306-1325, First published: 16 September 2019, DOI: (10.1002/ehf.1594)

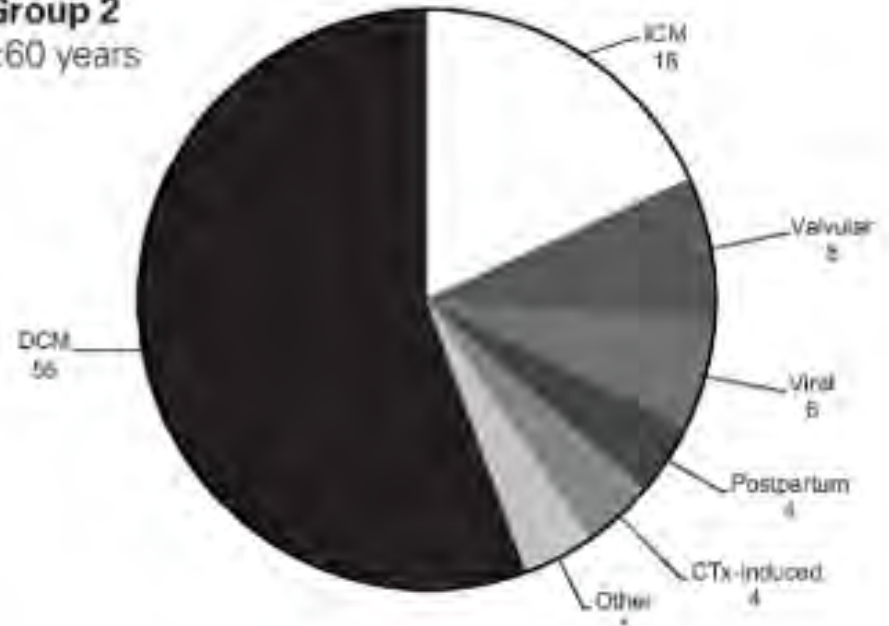


# Etiology of Heart Failure

**Group 1**  
≥60 years



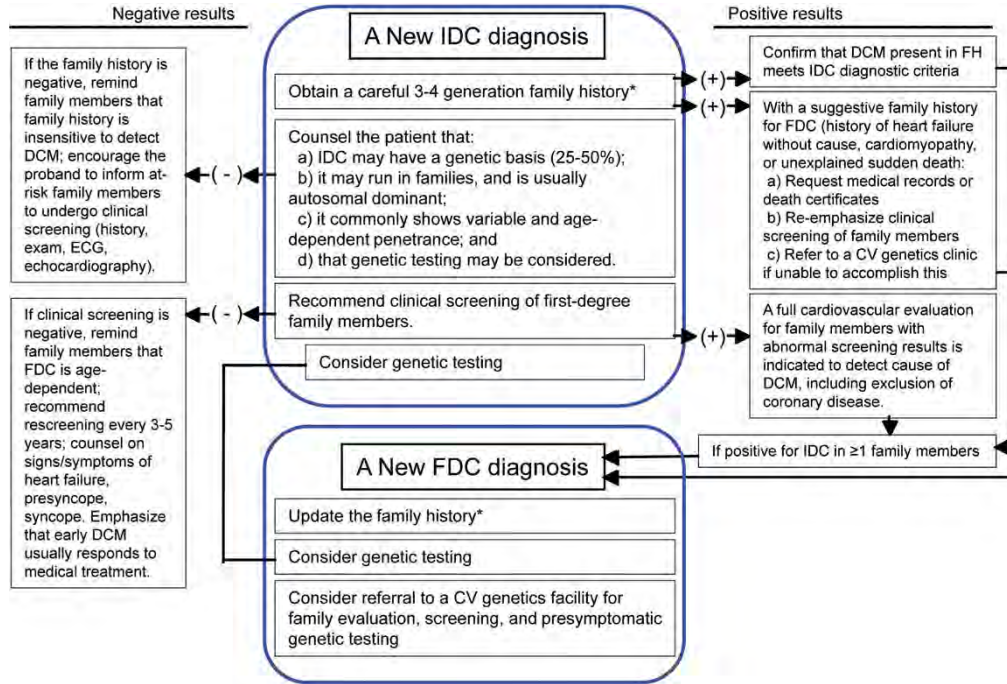
**Group 2**  
<60 years



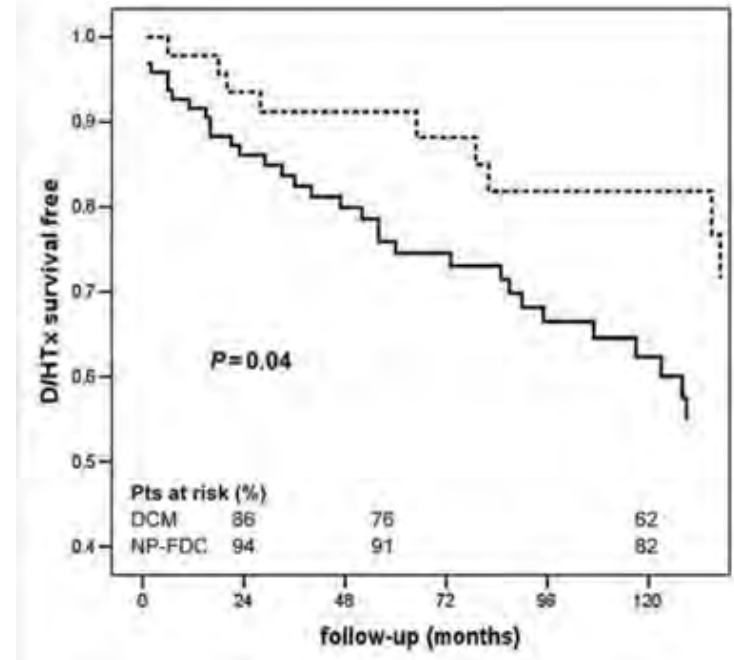
Cause of heart failure by age group, expressed as percentages. CM = cardiomyopathy; CTx = chemotherapy; DCM = dilated cardiomyopathy; ICM = ischemic cardiomyopathy



# Improved Outcome With Familial Screening for DCM



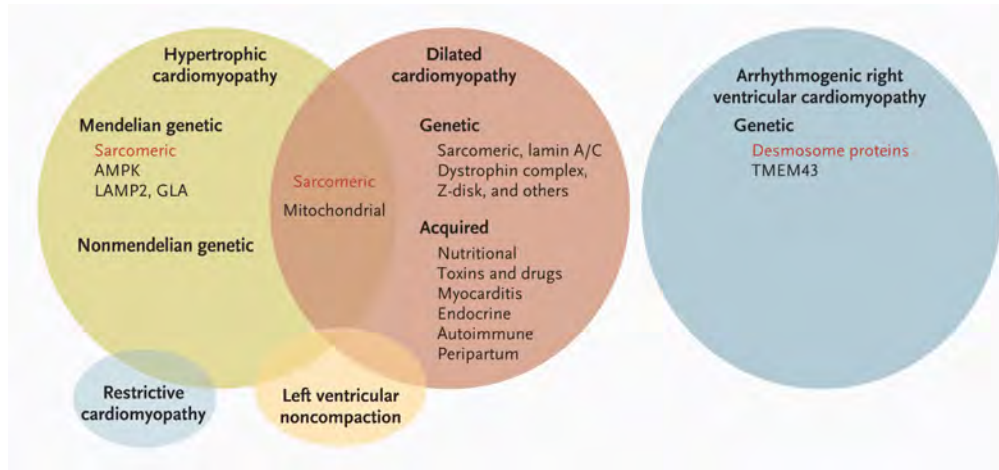
R. Hershberger & j. Siegfried. *JACC*, 2011; 57:1641-9



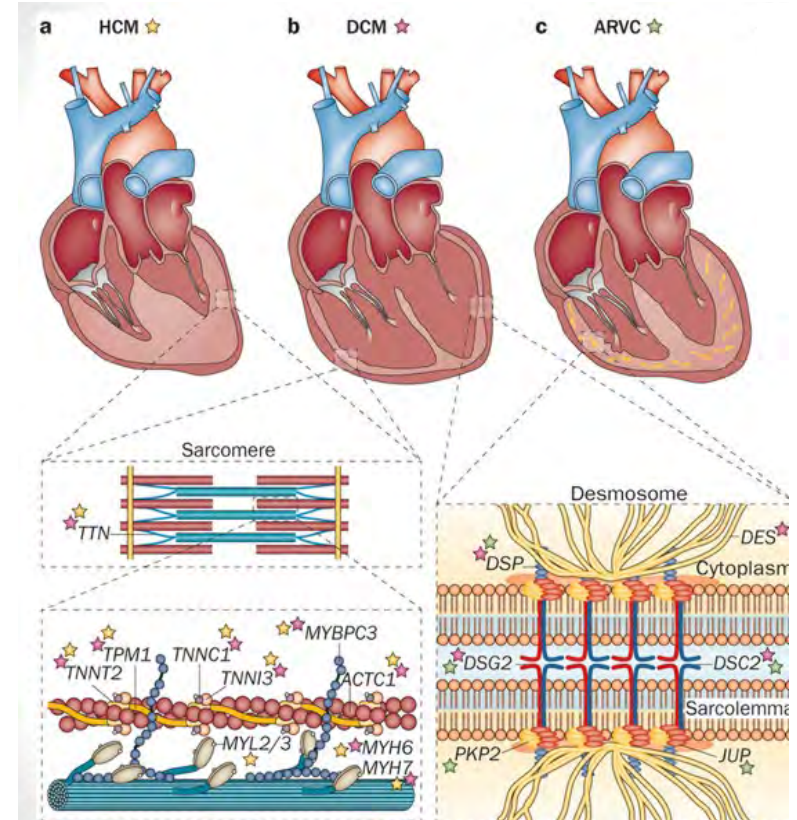
M. Moretti, et al. *European Journal of Heart Failure*, 2010;12(9):922-927



# Inherited/Genetic Cardiomyopathies



H. Watkins, et al. *NEJM*, 2011; 364:1643-56



M. Moretti, et al. *European Journal of Heart Failure*, 2010;12(9):922-927

# Inherited/Genetic Cardiomyopathies

- Estimated that these heritable cardiomyopathies affect as many as 1 in 390 adults
- May still be an underestimate of the true impact of these diseases given their incomplete penetrance and variable expressivity including differences in disease severity and age of onset

# Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- Incidence 1:500
- Most common cause of sudden death in the young
- About 50% of adult patients have at least 1 relative with HCM or SCD
- Varied clinical course and findings due in part to incomplete penetrance/variable expressivity
- At least 25 genes
  - >1400 mutations
- Identify mutations in up to 50-70% of patients
- Patients with >1 mutation (5%) have more severe disease
- Mutations in sarcomere (60-70%)
  - MYH7 and MYBPC3 most common (25-33% each)

# Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC)

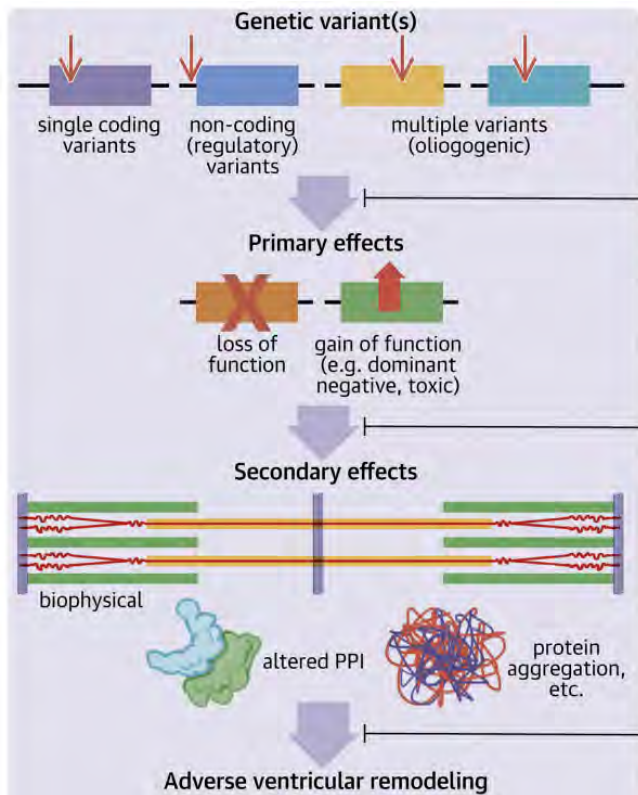
- 1:1000-5000
- Male 1.6 : Female 1
- 20% of SCD in people <35 yrs attributed to ARVC
- Myocytes die and are replaced by fat and fibrous tissue → arrhythmias
  - RV becomes thin and stretched; LV can also be affected (50%)
  - Electrical impulses are interrupted or altered
- Up to 12 genes identified; >300 pathogenic mutations
- Incomplete penetrance/variable expressivity (15%)
- 40-60% detection (with high clinical suspicion)
- Common molecular causes:
  - Defects in desmosomal proteins (intracellular structures that anchor intermediate filaments to the cytoplasmic membrane in adjoining cells)
    - DSP, PKP2, DSG2, DSC2, and JUP
  - 2 other genes encode proteins that maintain calcium homeostasis
    - RYR2 and TMEM43



# Dilated Cardiomyopathy

- Incidence 1:2500
- LV becomes dilated or stretched and heart muscle becomes weak and/or floppy. Unable to pump efficiently
- 20-50% familial
- Incomplete penetrance/variable expressivity
- >40 genes identified
  - varied function
  - overlap with HCM
- 30-50% detection
- DCM Genes
  - TTN = 25%
  - MYH7 = 10%
  - TNNT2 = 4%
  - LMNA/C = 7-8%
  - Muscular Dystrophy Genes

# Existing and Emerging Therapies for Genetic Cardiomyopathies

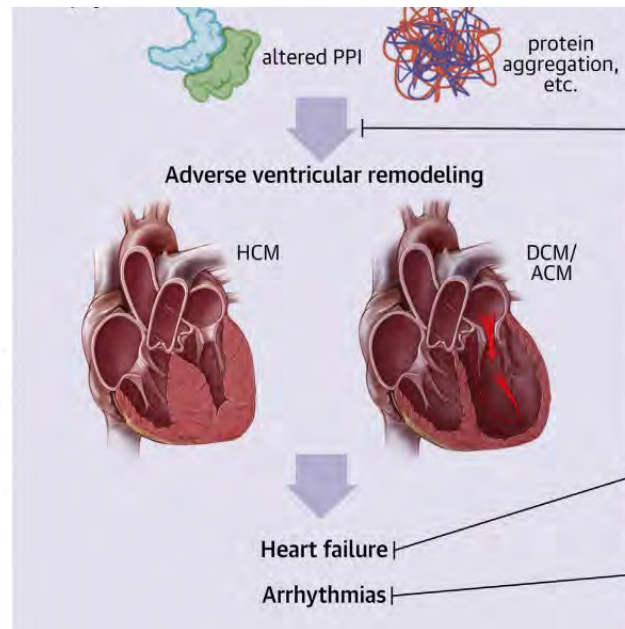


**Genetic therapies:**

- Gene replacement
- Gene silencing
- Somatic gene editing

**Modulators of primary disease pathways:**

- Myosin modulators
- Protein stabilizers (chemical chaperones)
- Anti-aggregation agents
- Modulators of protein quality control



**Modulators of secondary remodeling:**

- Neurohormonal blockade, anti-adrenergic (DCM)
- Metabolic
- Calcium, other signaling pathways
- Lifestyle interventions

• Diuretics

• Advanced interventions/devices/surgery

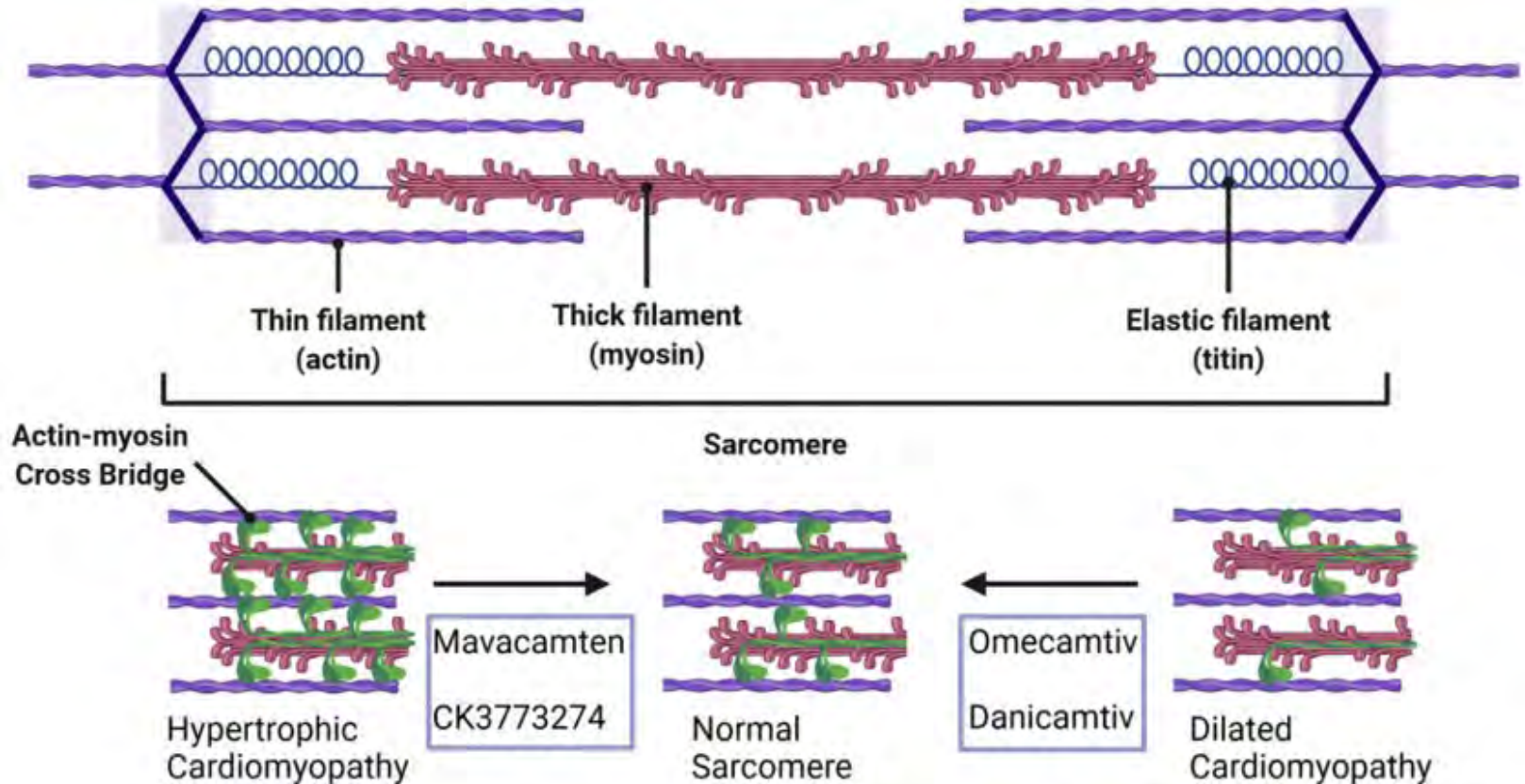
• Heart transplant

• Implantable cardio-defibrillator

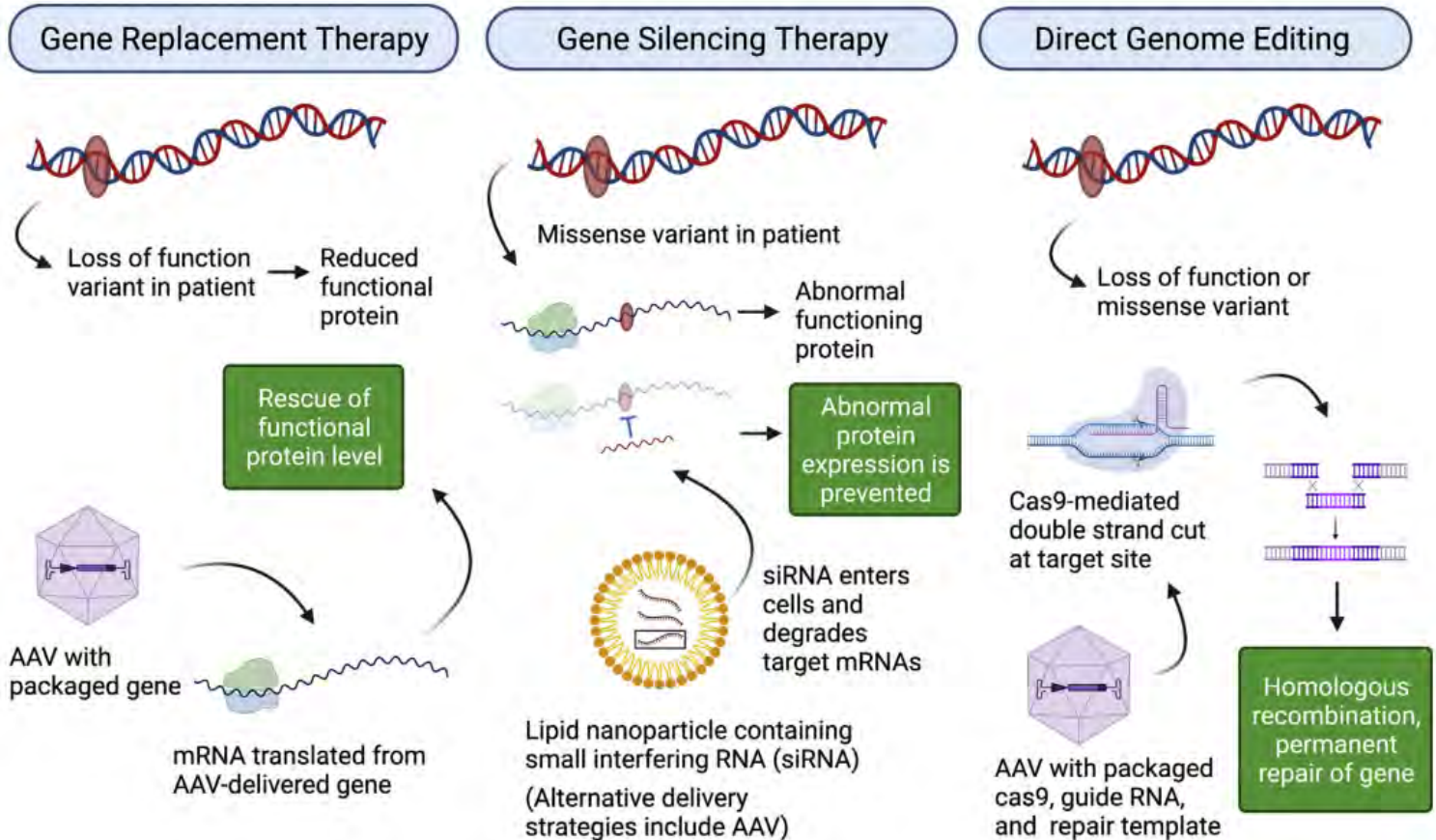
• Radiofrequency ablation

• Anti-arrhythmic drugs

# Myosin Modulators

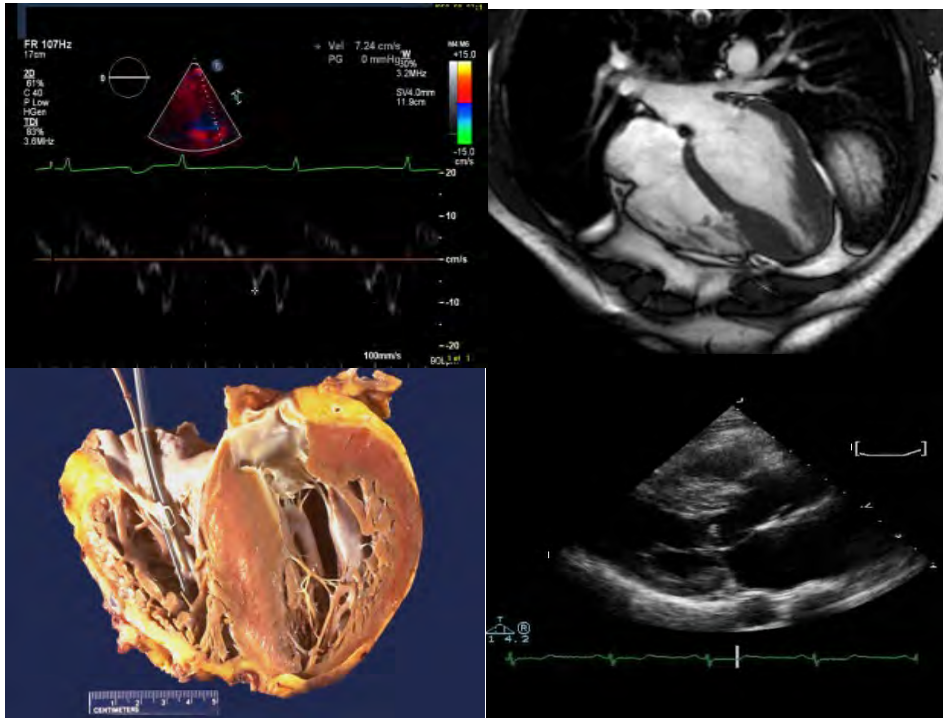


# Gene Therapy





# Cardiovascular Genetics Clinic



- Dedicated clinic for wide array of cardiovascular genetic conditions
  - Inherited cardiomyopathies
  - Inherited arrhythmias
  - Familial cholesterol disorders/dyslipidemias
    - Aortopathies
- Multi-disciplinary clinic comprised of specialized physician teams
- Dedicated genetic counselor

# THANK YOU!

[Cmmartin2@houstonmethodist.org](mailto:Cmmartin2@houstonmethodist.org)



# Atrial fibrillation

## Novel treatments and...

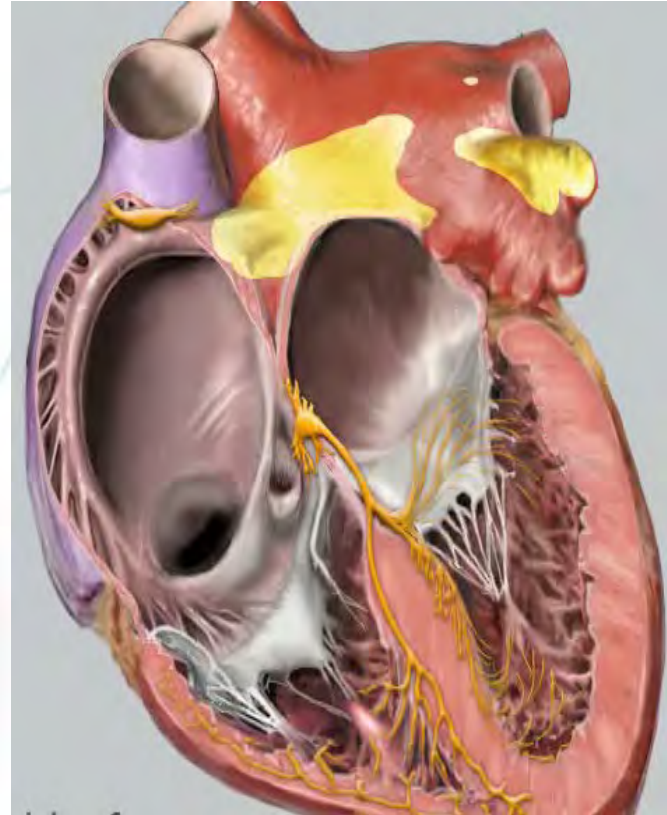
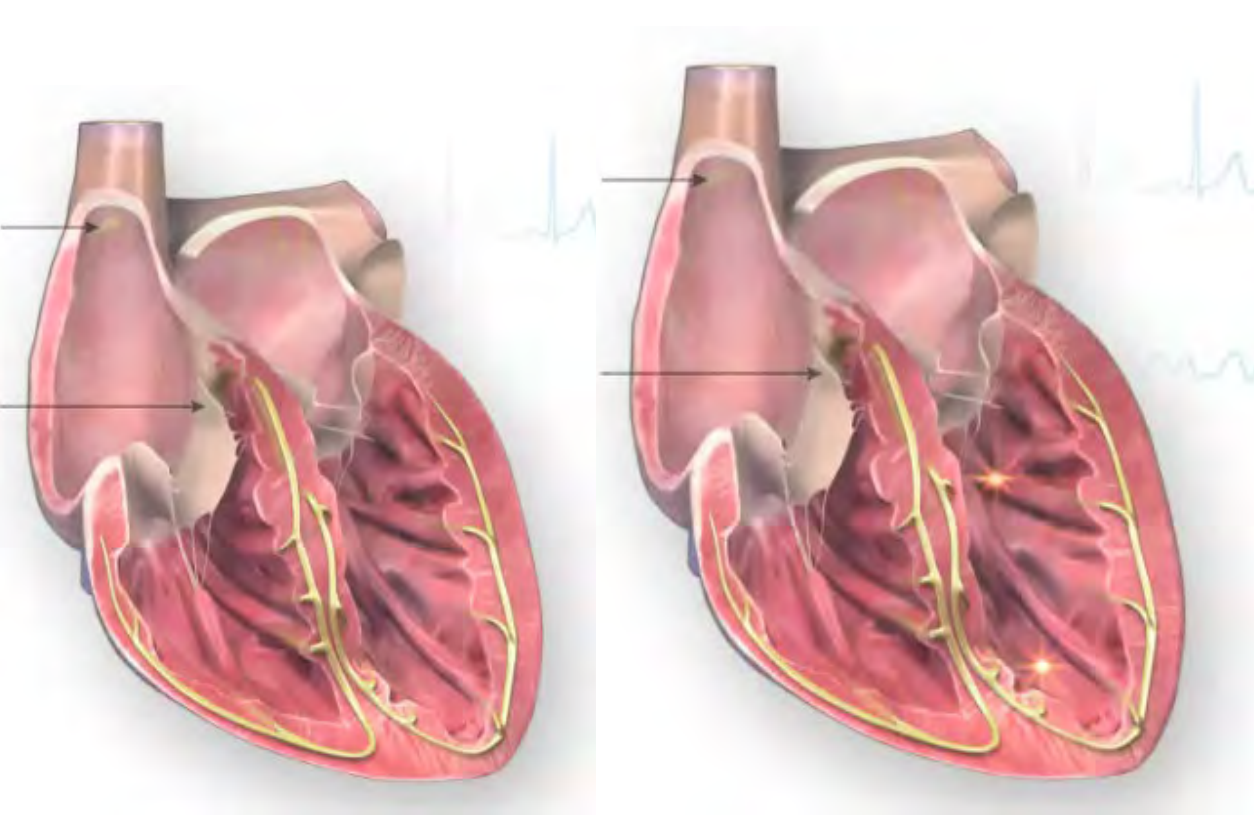
### (almost) everything you want to know

Miguel Valderrábano

Division of Cardiac Electrophysiology, Department of Cardiology,  
Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center,  
Houston Methodist Hospital



# What is fibrillation?





# Left Atrial Appendage

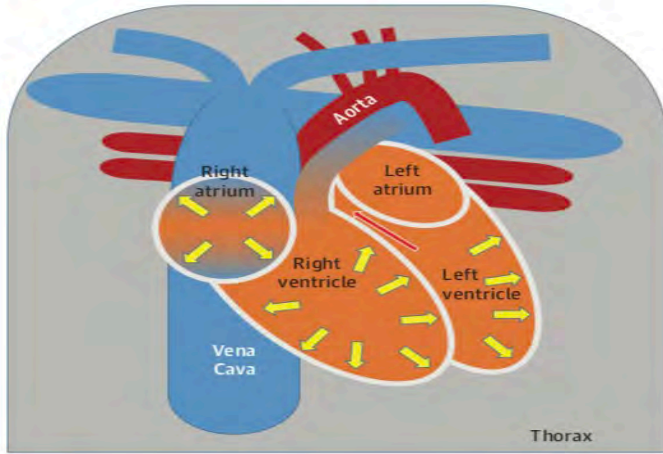
## Atrial Fibrillation and Thrombus Formation: Stroke



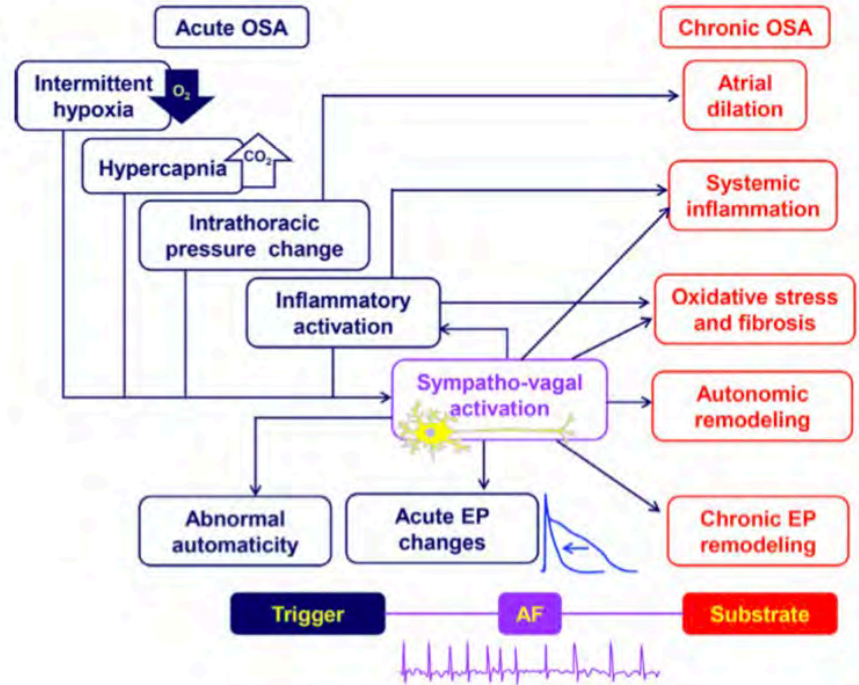
# AF associations: sleep apnea

Figure. Obstructive Sleep Apnea and a Unique Complex and Dynamic

A Pathophysiology of obstructive respiratory events

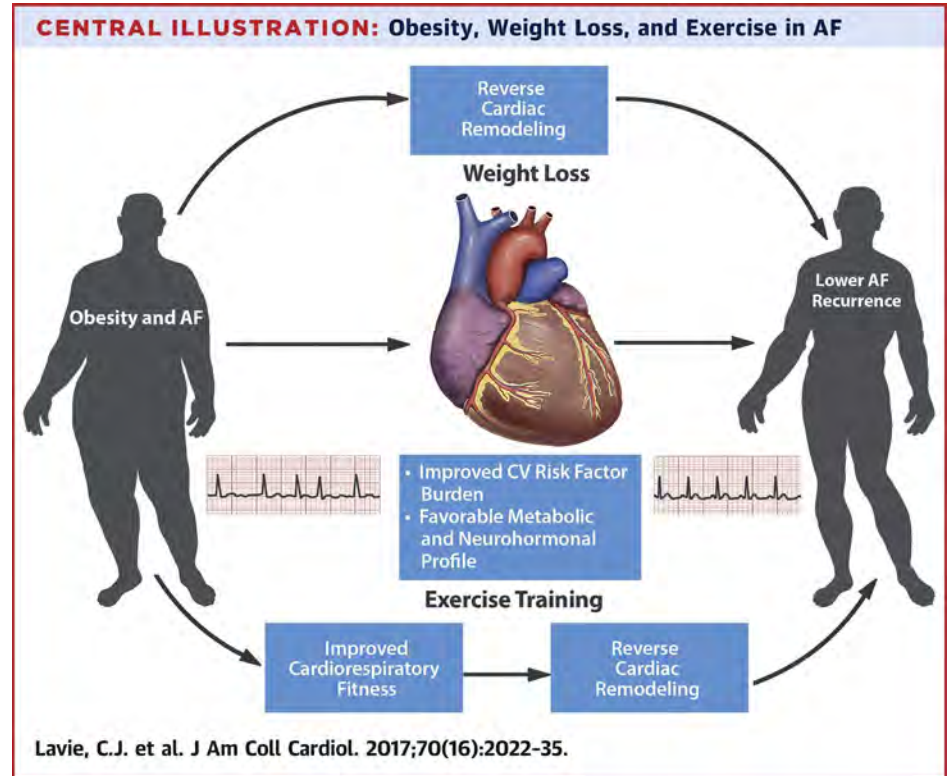


Apnea increases AF risk. However,  
Apnea treatment does NOT resolve AF

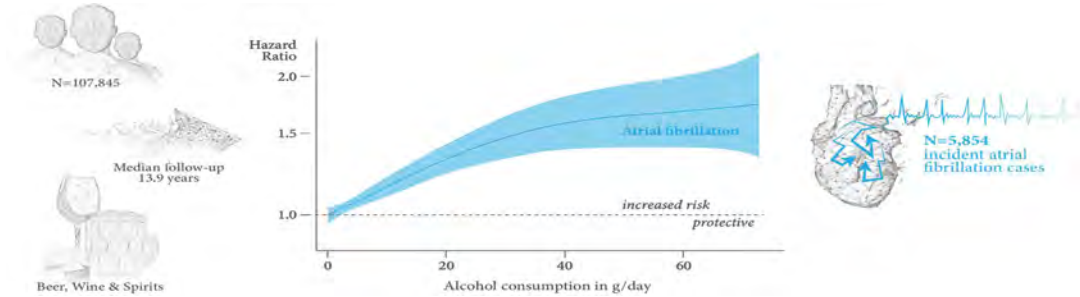


# AF associations: obesity

- Obesity increases AF risk
  - Proinflammatory epicardial fat
  - Association with
    - HTN
    - OSA



# AF associations: alcohol



*European Heart Journal*, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehaa953>

<p><b>140</b> Adults with atrial fibrillation and regular alcohol consumption <math>\geq 10</math> standard drinks per week</p>	<p><b>Abstinence</b> (no alcohol for 6 mo)</p> <p>(N=70)</p>	<p><b>Control</b></p> <p>(N=70)</p>
<p><b>Atrial fibrillation recurrence</b></p>	<p><b>53%</b></p> <p>HR, 0.55; 95% CI, 0.36–0.84; P=0.005</p>	<p><b>73%</b></p>
<p><b>Median percentage of time in atrial fibrillation during 6 mo follow-up</b></p>	<p><b>0.5%</b></p>	<p><b>1.2%</b></p>

A. Voskoboinik et al. 10.1056/NEJMoa1817591

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# Definitions

## Paroxysmal AF

- AF that terminates spontaneously or with intervention within 7 d of onset. Episodes may recur with variable frequency.

## Persistent AF

- Continuous AF that is sustained >7 d.

## Long-standing persistent AF

- Continuous AF >12 mo in duration.

## Permanent AF

- The patient and clinician make a joint decision to stop further attempts to restore and/or maintain sinus rhythm. Acceptance of AF represents a therapeutic attitude on the part of the patient and clinician rather than an inherent pathophysiological attribute of AF.
- Acceptance of AF may change as symptoms, efficacy of therapeutic interventions, and patient and clinician preferences evolve.

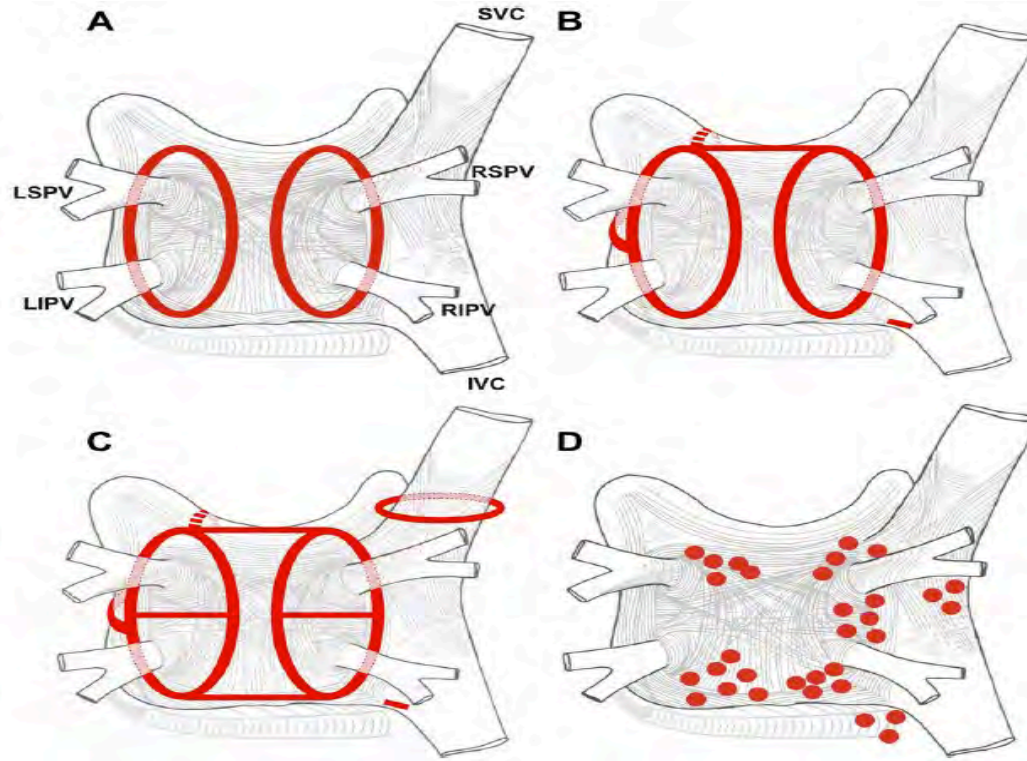
## Nonvalvular AF

- AF in the absence of rheumatic mitral stenosis, a mechanical or bioprosthetic heart valve, or mitral valve repair.

# Treatment Goals

- #1: Symptom suppression
- #2: Improve outcomes:
  - Prevent strokes
  - Prevent tachycardia-induced cardiomyopathy
  - Prevent dementia?
  - Reduce mortality?
- Approaches:
  - Rhythm control
  - Rate control/anticoagulation
- HOW?
  - Antiarrhythmic drugs
  - Anticoagulation
  - Ablation to restore normal rhythm

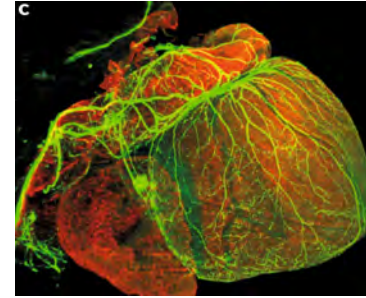
# Atrial Fibrillation Ablation Strategies



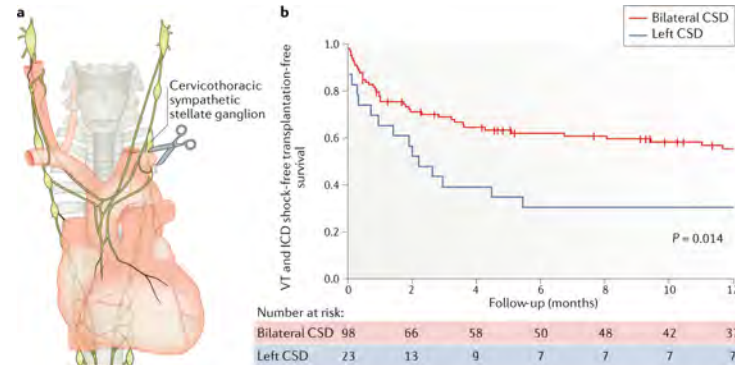
Calkins et al *Heart Rhythm* 2012

# Nerves Modulate Cardiac Function

- All aspects of cardiac function are modulated by cardiac innervation
- Time scale:
  - Beat-by-beat
  - Circadian
  - Seasonal
- Innervation modulates “flight-or-fight” response
- Innervation triggers clinical events such as sudden cardiac death, atrial fibrillation, syncope due to conduction block and others
- Denervation can improve ventricular arrhythmias

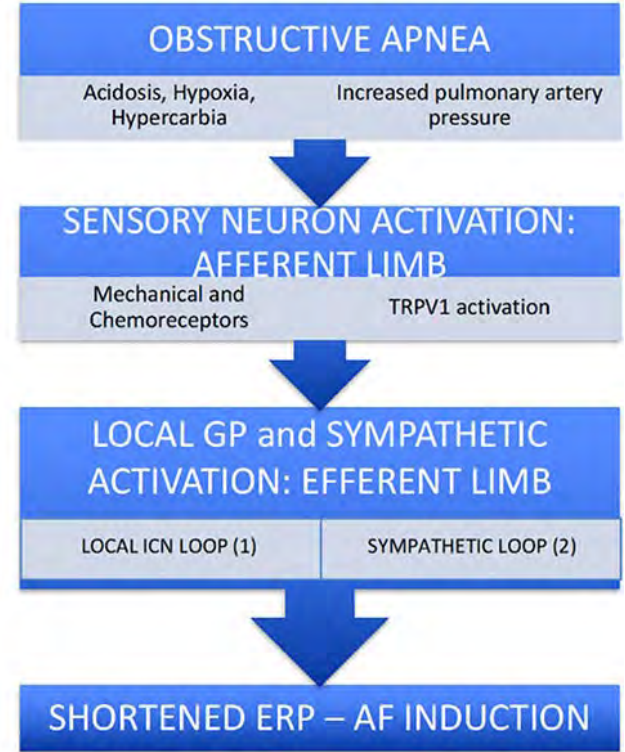
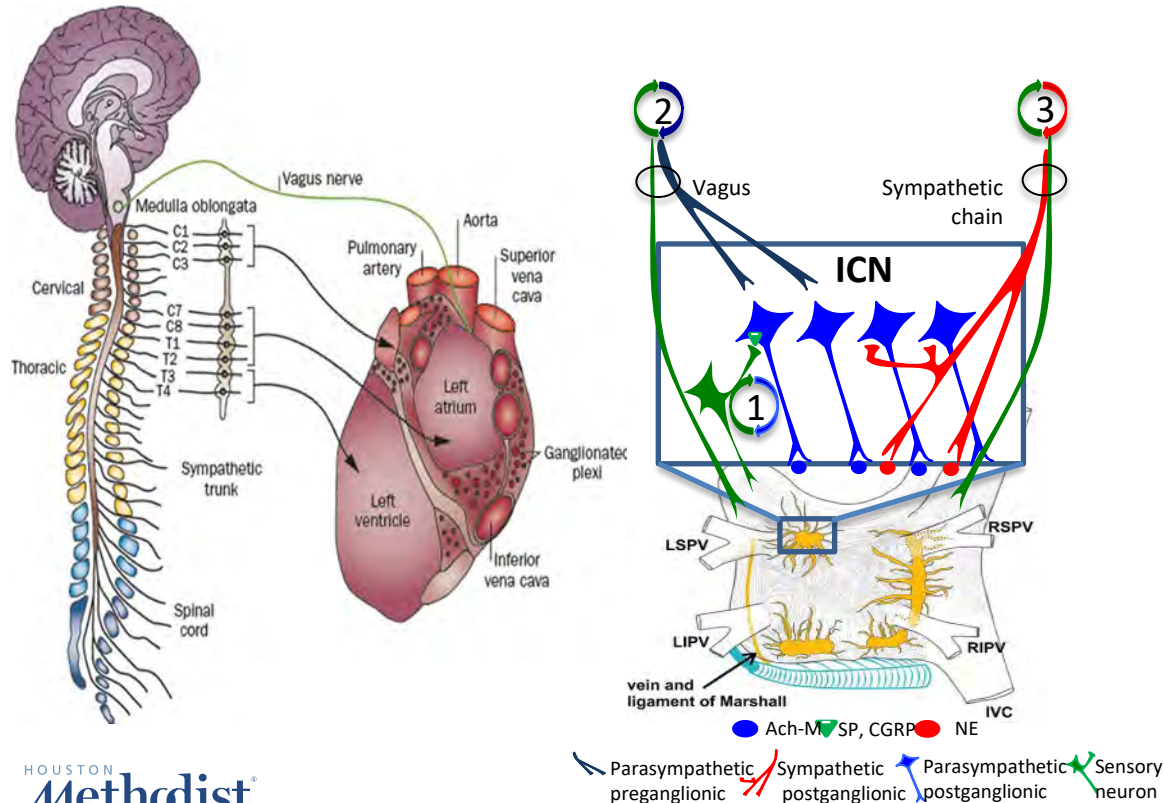


*Nature Reviews Cardiology* volume 16, pages 707–726 (2019)



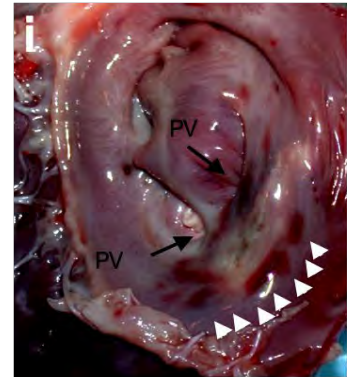
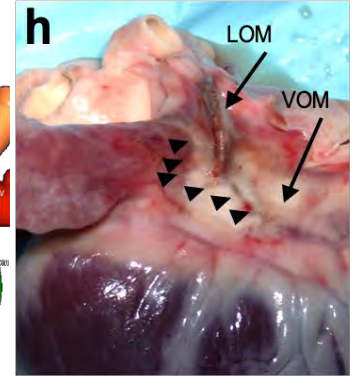
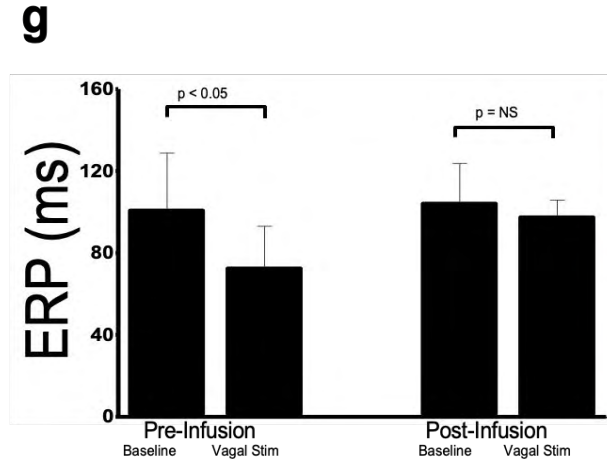
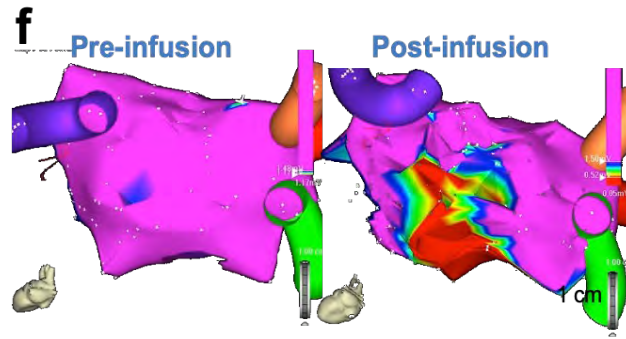
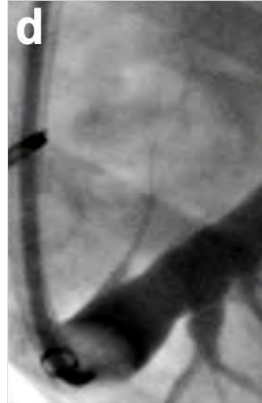
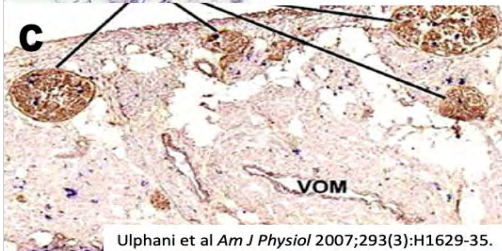
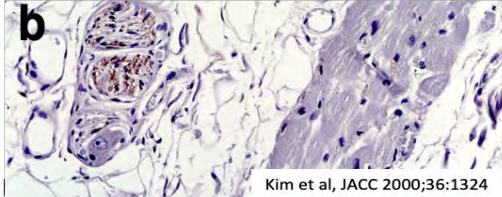
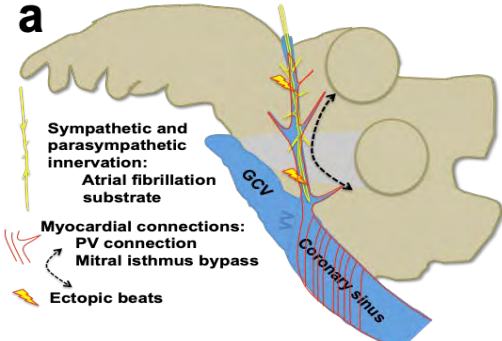
Vasegui et al, *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2017 Jun 27;69(25):3070-3080.

# Role of cardiac intervention in sleep apnea and AF

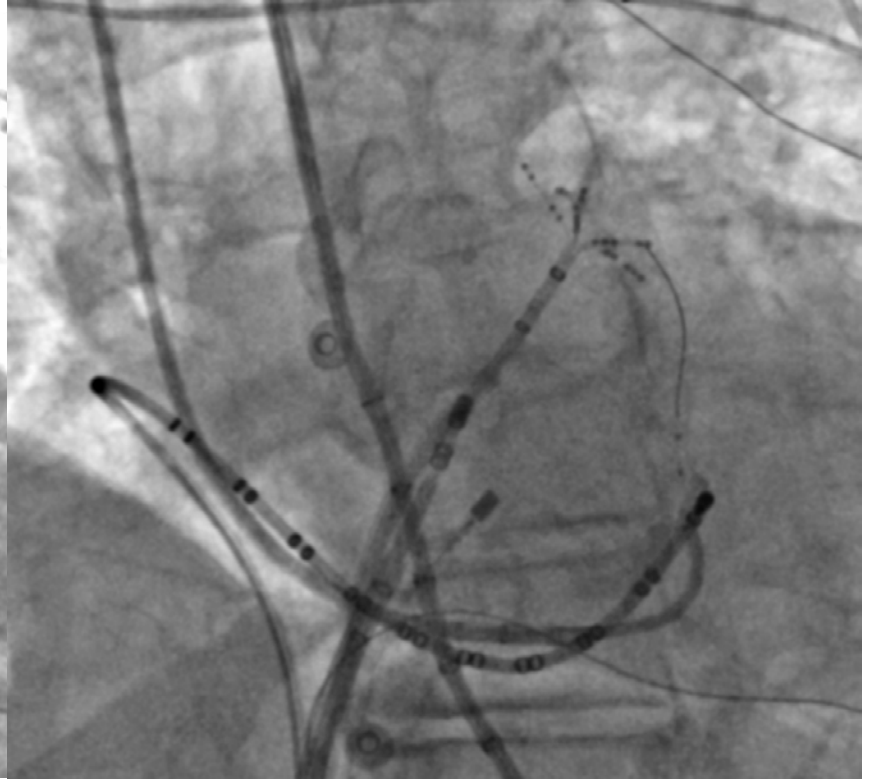




# Vein of Marshall and AF



# Vein of Marshall ethanol



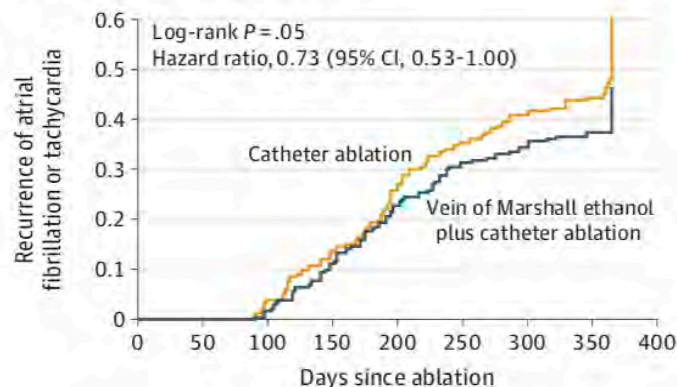
# Effect of Catheter Ablation With Vein of Marshall Ethanol Infusion vs Catheter Ablation Alone on Persistent Atrial Fibrillation

## The VENUS Randomized Clinical Trial

JAMA. 2020;324(16):1620-1628. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.16195

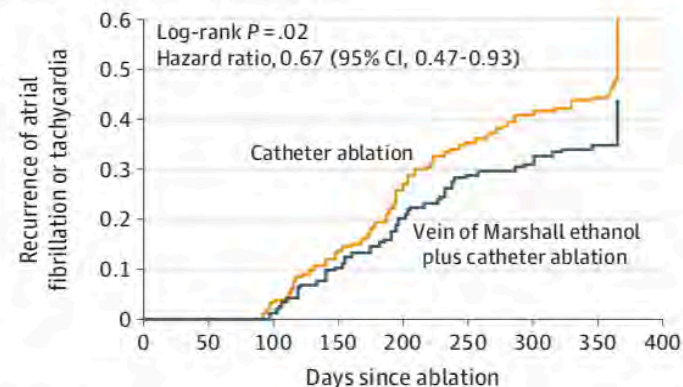
Miguel Valderrábano, MD; Leif E. Peterson, PhD; Vijay Swarup, MD; Paul A. Schurmann, MD; Akash Makkar, MD; Rahul N. Doshi, MD; David DeLurgio, MD; Charles A. Athill, MD; Kenneth A. Ellenbogen, MD; Andrea Natale, MD; Jayanthi Koneru, MD; Amish S. Dave, MD, PhD; Irakli Giorgberidze, MD; Hamid Afshar, MD; Michelle L. Guthrie, RN; Raquel Bunge, RN; Carlos A. Morillo, MD; Neal S. Kleiman, MD

**A** Atrial fibrillation or tachycardia occurrence after single procedure in as-randomized analysis



No. at risk									
Vein of Marshall ethanol plus catheter ablation	185	180	174	153	129	116	108	89	68
Catheter ablation	158	157	148	132	110	95	86	69	54

**B** Atrial fibrillation or tachycardia occurrence after single procedure in as-treated analysis



No. at risk									
Vein of Marshall ethanol plus catheter ablation	155	151	145	129	111	100	95	77	58
Catheter ablation	158	157	148	132	110	95	86	69	54



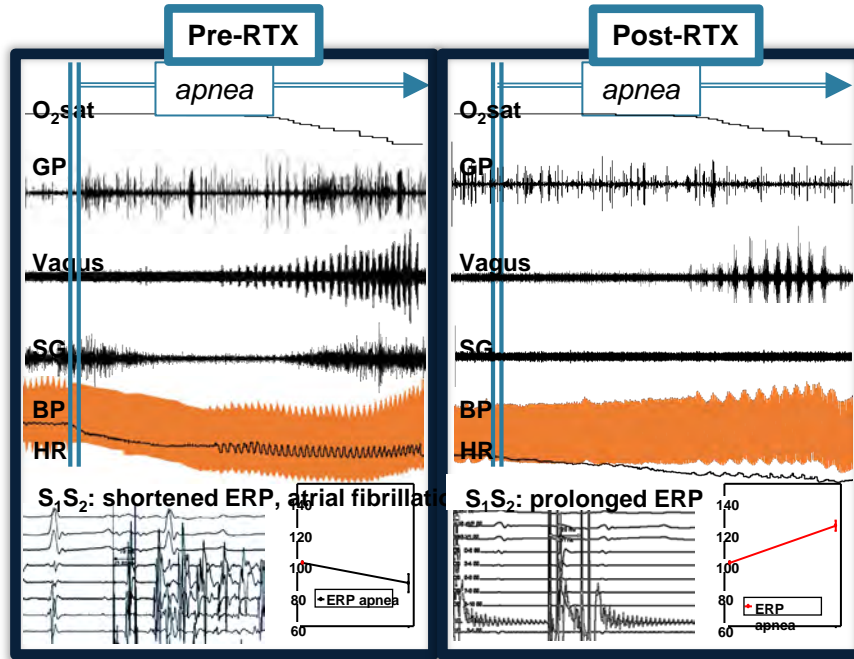
# Scoville Heat Scale: Strength of TRPV1 activation





# Abolishing apnea-induced AF

- Apnea in AF: nerve recordings in humans



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Cardiac Afferent Denervation Abolishes Ganglionated Plexi and Sympathetic Responses to Apnea

#### Implications for Atrial Fibrillation

**BACKGROUND:** The autonomic nervous system response to apnea and its mechanistic connection to atrial fibrillation (AF) are unclear. We hypothesize that sensory neurons within the ganglionated plexi (GP) play a role. We aimed to delineate the autonomic response to apnea and to test the effects of ablation of cardiac sensory neurons with resiniferatoxin (RTX), a neurotoxic TRPV1 (transient receptor potential vanilloid 1) agonist.

**METHODS:** Sixteen dogs were anesthetized and ventilated. Apnea was induced by stopping ventilation until oxygen saturations decreased to 80%. Nerve recordings from bilateral vagal nerves, left stellate ganglion,

Liliana Tavares, MD  
 Moisés Rodríguez-Mañero, MD, PhD  
 Bahij Kreidieh, MD  
 Sergio H. Ibarra-Cortez, MD  
 Jiexiao Chen, BS  
 Sufen Wang, PhD  
 Judit Markovits, DVM, PhD  
 Roberto Barrios, MD  
 Miguel Valderrábano, MD

Funded by the Lois and Carl Davis Centennial Chair, DeBakey Funds, Charles Burnett III Endowment

Tavares... Valderrabano et al *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol.* 2019;12:e006942. 16

# Nerves-and-atrial fibrillation research

- Collaborative
- Co-cultures interactions
- Nerve recordings
- Planned NIH
  - On-going

**Department of Health and Human Services**  
National Institutes of Health  
NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE

**Notice of Award**  
FAIN# R01HL168277  
Federal Award Date  
03/17/2023

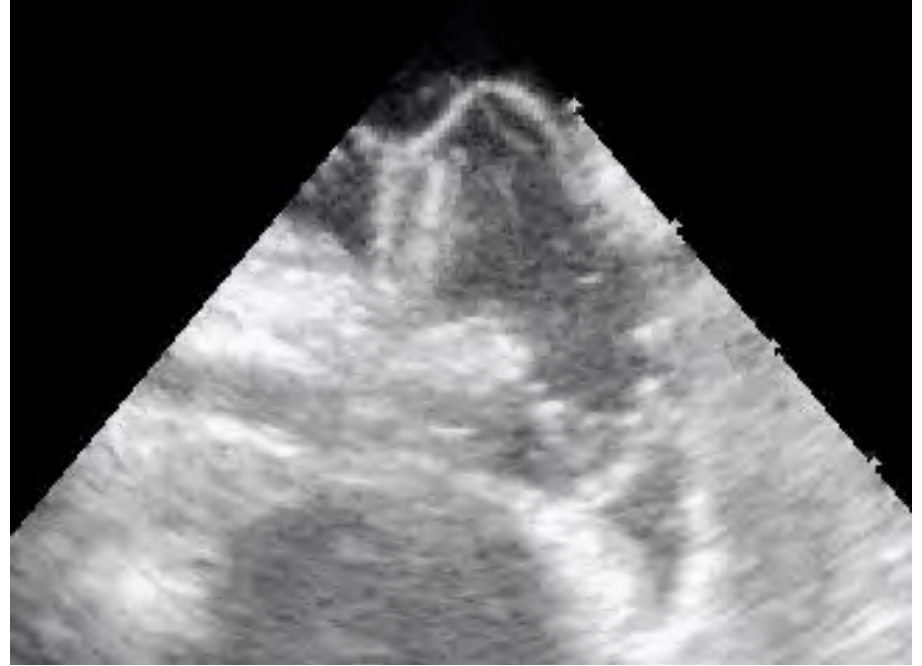
Recipient Information	Federal Award Information
<b>1. Recipient Name</b> METHODIST HOSPITAL, THE 6670 BERTNER AVE  HOUSTON, TX 77030	<b>11. Award Number</b> 1R01HL168277
<b>2. Congressional District of Recipient</b> 09	<b>12. Unique Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN)</b> R01HL168277
<b>3. Payment System Identifier (PSI)</b> 1870721923A1	<b>13. Statutory Authority</b> 42 USC 241 42 CFR 52
<b>4. Employer Identification Number (EIN)</b> 870721923	<b>14. Federal Award Project Title</b> Cardiac Autonomic Activation In Atrial Fibrillation Triggers And Substrate
<b>5. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)</b> 18560052	<b>15. Assistance Listing Number</b> 93.837
<b>6. Recipient Unique Entity Identifier</b> XJUNYJW	<b>16. Assistance Listing Program Title</b> Cardiovascular Diseases Research
<b>Project Director or Principal Investigator</b> Miguel Valderrabano, MD (Contact)	<b>17. Award Action Type</b> New Competing
	<b>18. Is the Award P&amp;D?</b>



# Stroke prevention strategies

- Systemic anticoagulation
  - Warfarin
  - NOACs
- LAA closure
  - Watchman and other devices
  - Lariat
  - Atri-clip
- Selecting the right strategy requires individualization of risks/benefits!

# Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion via intracardiac echo guidance



Hemam et al *Heart Rhythm*. 2019 Mar;16(3):334-342.



# Houston Methodist Update

Marc L. Boom

September 28, 2023

When you focus  
on the  
fundamentals...  
  
the awards will  
follow.



# Vizient Q&A Ranking Trend by Hospital

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
HMH	9 / 102 ★★★★★	15 / 107	8 / 99 ★★★★★	11 / 93 ★★★★★	6 / 100 ★★★★★	6 / 101 ★★★★★	6 / 107 ★★★★★	12 / 116 ★★★★★
HMSL	25 / 124	59 / 161	11 / 100	2 / 79 ★★★★★	2 / 97 ★★★★★	4 / 117 ★★★★★	2 / 124 ★★★★★	3 / 181 ★★★★★
HMB	80 / 124	104/161	28 / 100	34 / 82	17 / 100	8 / 121 ★★★★★	2 / 145 ★★★★★	2 / 181 ★★★★★
HMW	12 / 124 ★★★★★	20 / 161	5 / 100 ★★★★★	10 / 82	7 / 100 ★★★★★	4 / 121 ★★★★★	3 / 145 ★★★★★	4 / 181 ★★★★★
HMWB	38/124	63 / 161	16 / 100	5 / 82 ★★★★★	8 / 100 ★★★★★	9 / 121 ★★★★★	6 / 145 ★★★★★	5 / 181 ★★★★★
HMTW	—	—	—	3 / 82 ★★★★★	5 / 100 ★★★★★	1 / 121 ★★★★★	1 / 145 ★★★★★	1 / 181 ★★★★★
HMCL	30 / 124	27 / 161	50 / 93	52 / 95	53 / 135	22 / 226	34 / 267	13 / 333 ★★★★★

# Awards and Accolades



Houston  
Methodist  
Hospital



Houston  
Methodist  
Baytown



Houston  
Methodist  
Clear Lake



Houston  
Methodist  
The  
Woodlands



Houston  
Methodist  
West



Houston  
Methodist  
Willowbrook



# Awards and Accolades



Houston Methodist  
ranked #24 on  
Forbes' list of  
"America's Best  
Employers for  
Women"

# Awards and Accolades



THE WORLD'S  
**BEST**  
SMART  
HOSPITALS  
2024

# Centennial Tower: The Big Pour!





# Media Updates

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

## The New York Times

LATE EDITION

Today: partly sunny, dry, high 76. Tonight: mostly cloudy, rain, thunderstorms, low 64. Tomorrow: mostly cloudy, rain, thunderstorms, high 76. Weather map appears on Page D8.

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### Wagner Future Is As Shadowy As Its Business

#### Group With Tentacles Beyond Its Fighters

By PAUL SONNE  
and VALERIE HOPKINS

Its leader is officially dead, as is its founding commander. President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia is claiming it doesn't exist.

Wagner, the once-powerful Russian private military company that fell out of favor with the Kremlin after an aborted mutiny in June, has been cast into even greater uncertainty since Wednesday, when its leader, Yevgeny V. Prigozhin, died in a plane crash.

The Russian authorities said Sunday that DNA tests, conducted on bodies recovered from the site in the Tver region, confirmed that Mr. Prigozhin and nine other people listed on the plane's manifest had died in the suspicious crash.

Now attention is shifting to whether Wagner, which Mr. Prigozhin built over nearly a decade into a global empire that benefited Moscow as well as his own wallet, ultimately will die, too.

U.S. and Western officials say that the Kremlin is considering ways to bring Wagner under more direct control of the Russian state but hasn't made any final decisions on what to do with the group.

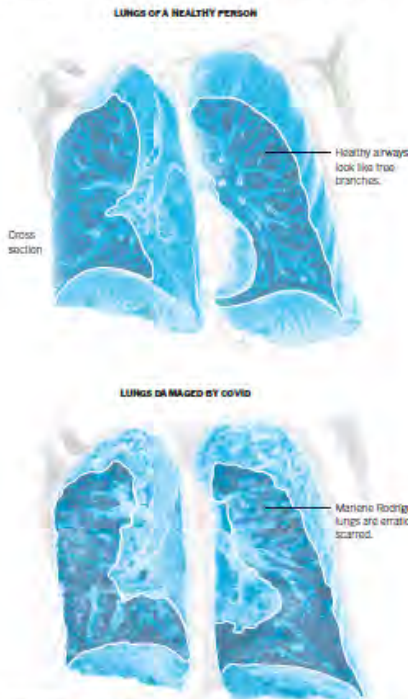
It is unlikely that Russia wants to squander the trained fighters, geopolitical inroads and business interests that Mr. Prigozhin cultivated since Wagner's founding in 2014. His outfit has operated in at least 10 countries.

But finding a way to neutralize an armed organization that posed one of the biggest threats to Mr. Putin's tenure in 23 years, while also retaining its fighting power and global links, is a difficult task, particularly given the longstanding enmity between fighters with the private military company and

Continued on Page A 6

### A View of Covid's Damage, From Inside

Lung scans of real patients, rendered in 3-D, offer a rare look at the shrunken airways, scarred tissue, and other injuries to those who contracted severe Covid-19 early in the pandemic and still struggle with its lasting effects. Pages A12-14.



Sources: Houston Methodist Outpatient Center; U.C.L.A. Medical Center.  
Note: The healthy lung scan shows the lungs of a 64-year-old Milwaukee man.

JANIS M. WELCH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

### Georgia Defendants Spar Over Trial Dates and Sites

#### Lawyers for Trump and Others Tangle Case — Some Seek Move to Federal Court

By RICHARD FALSBET and DANNY HAKIM

ATLANTA — Even as former President Donald J. Trump and his 18 co-defendants in the Georgia election interference case turned themselves in one by one as an Atlanta jail last week, their lawyers began working to change how the case would play out.

They are already at odds over when they will leave their day in court, but also, crucially, where. Should enough of them succeed, the case could split into several smaller cases, perhaps overseen by different judges in different courthouses, turning on different timelines.

Five defendants have already sought to move the state case in federal court, citing their ties to the federal government. The first one to file — Mark Meadows, Mr. Trump's chief of staff during the 2020 election — will make the argument for removal on Monday in a hearing before a federal judge in Atlanta.

Federal officials charged with state crimes can move their cases to federal court if they can convince a judge that they are being charged for actions connected to their official duties, among other things.

In the Georgia case, the question of whether to change the venue — a legal maneuver known as removal — matters because it would affect the composition of a jury. If the case stays in Fulton County, Ga., the jury will come from a basin of Democratic poli-

tics where Mr. Trump was trounced in 2020. If the case is removed to federal court, the jury will be drawn from a 10-county region of Georgia that is more suburban and rural — and somewhat more Trump-friendly. Because it takes only one not-pukey vote to hang a jury, this modest advantage could prove to be a very big deal.

The coming fight over the proper venue for the case are only one strand of a complicated tangle of efforts being launched by a gaggle of defense lawyers now representing Mr. Trump and the 18 others named in the 98-page racketeering indictment. Last week, the lawyers dogged both state and federal court dockets with motions that will also determine when the case begins.

Already, one defendant's case is spinning off as a result. Kenneth Chisno, a lawyer who advised Mr. Trump after the 2020 election, has asked for a speedy trial, and the presiding state judge has agreed to it. His trial is now set to begin on Oct. 23. Another defendant, Sidney Powell, filed a similar motion on Friday, and a third, John Eastman, also plans to invoke his right to an early trial, according to his lawyer.

Continued on Page A15

HEARINGS Judges may begin to address some of the many cases' many complexities. PAGE A15

### Realtors Chief Facing Claims Of Misconduct

By DEBRA KAMIN

One agreement said the man, who



# Media Updates



## SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

Professor's vision restored after battling a tumor near his optic nerve and a near-fatal embolism

**A**t first, Al Danto, 62, chalked his blurry vision up to eye strain from grading papers. Hundreds of students enroll each semester in his new enterprise and enterprise acquisition courses in Rice University's MBA program. When essays are due, Danto can find himself reading for hours on end.

"I just thought my eyes were getting worse over time," the West University Place resident said. "Everything was fuzzy."

When he scheduled an appointment at Texas Eye Center, his optometrist discovered a cataract and then scheduled surgery. After the procedure, however, Danto's vision did not improve.

His optometrist then ordered an MRI. Images revealed a large tumor pressing on his optic nerve.

"It was a complete shock," Danto said. "My first thought was that it was malignant. I was scared to death."

His next thought was to find the most accomplished neurosurgeon around. "I wanted to get in the best hands possible," he said.

**By Lindsay Peyton**  
CORRESPONDENT

Danto called his friend Dr. Joseph Galati, medical director for the Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation at Houston Methodist Hospital and founder of Liver Specialists of Texas. "I've been close friends with Al for 30 years," Galati said. "He and his wife, Donna, were the first people that we met when we moved here. He was my neighbor."

Danto and Galati had sons about the same age, coached Little League together and went to each other's backyard barbecues.

Over the years, Galati would ask Danto for business advice, and Danto would lean on Galati for medical guidance.

When Danto sent a copy of his MRI report, Galati replied, "The only person I would see would be Dr. Baskin."

Without delay, Galati called Dr. David Baskin, neurosurgery and brain tumor expert at Houston Methodist Hospital.

"There's this friend of mine. Can you see him sooner than later?" Galati asked.

**Just the beginning**  
Baskin determined that the growth was benign and, despite its size, would not impact Danto cognitively. "He presented with an absolutely gigantic tumor, pressing on both frontal lobes," Baskin said. "But the brain has incredibly adaptive capabilities, if you can carefully dissect the tumor away from the brain using microsurgical techniques." Baskin explained that, while any brain surgery of this magnitude is high risk, his team at Methodist is prepared for the most severe cases. "It's what we do," he said.

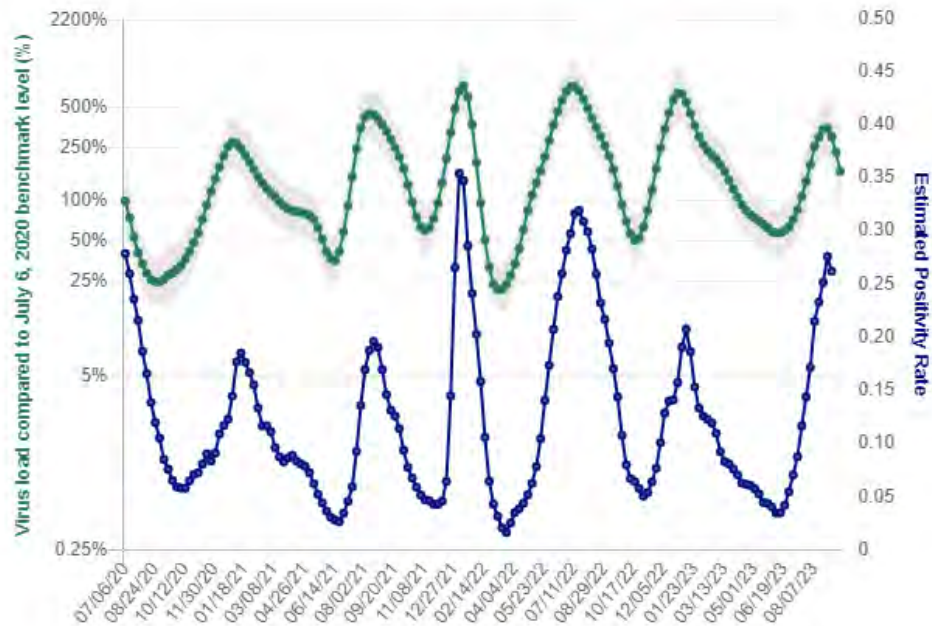
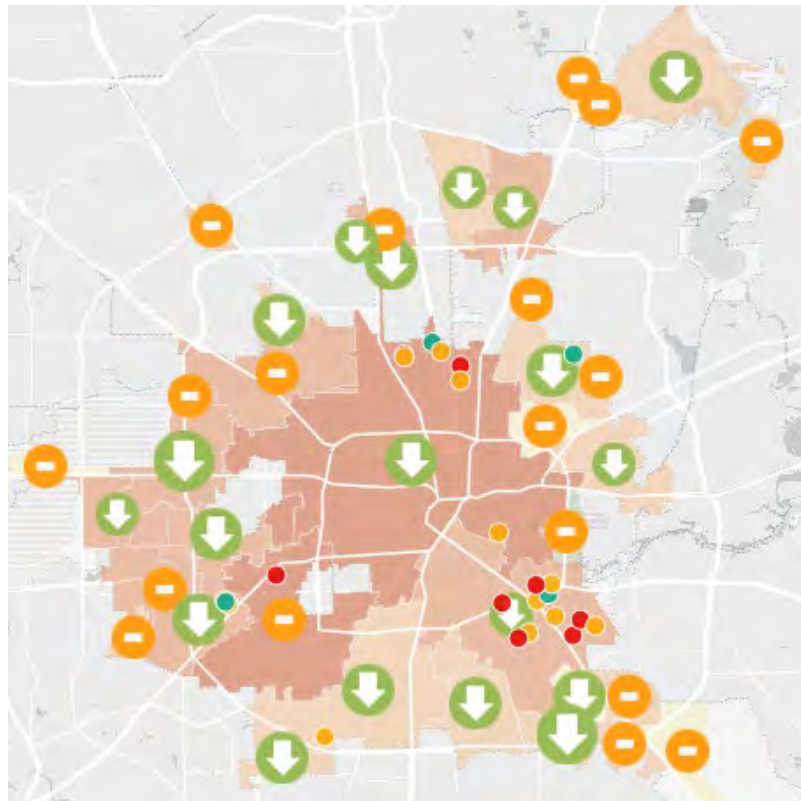
Danto was expecting an eight-hour operation, then two or three days of recovery in the hospital. "I'll be in and out," he said.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. The operation began at 7:30 a.m. on May 25, 2022. Part of the surgery involved using an ultrasound device to shatter the tumor. Then, Baskin went to work removing each section. "We dissected quite a bit," Baskin said.

By 5:30 p.m., however, the neurosurgeon said Baskin and his team were "Al 2



# City Of Houston COVID-19 Wastewater Monitoring



Viral Load

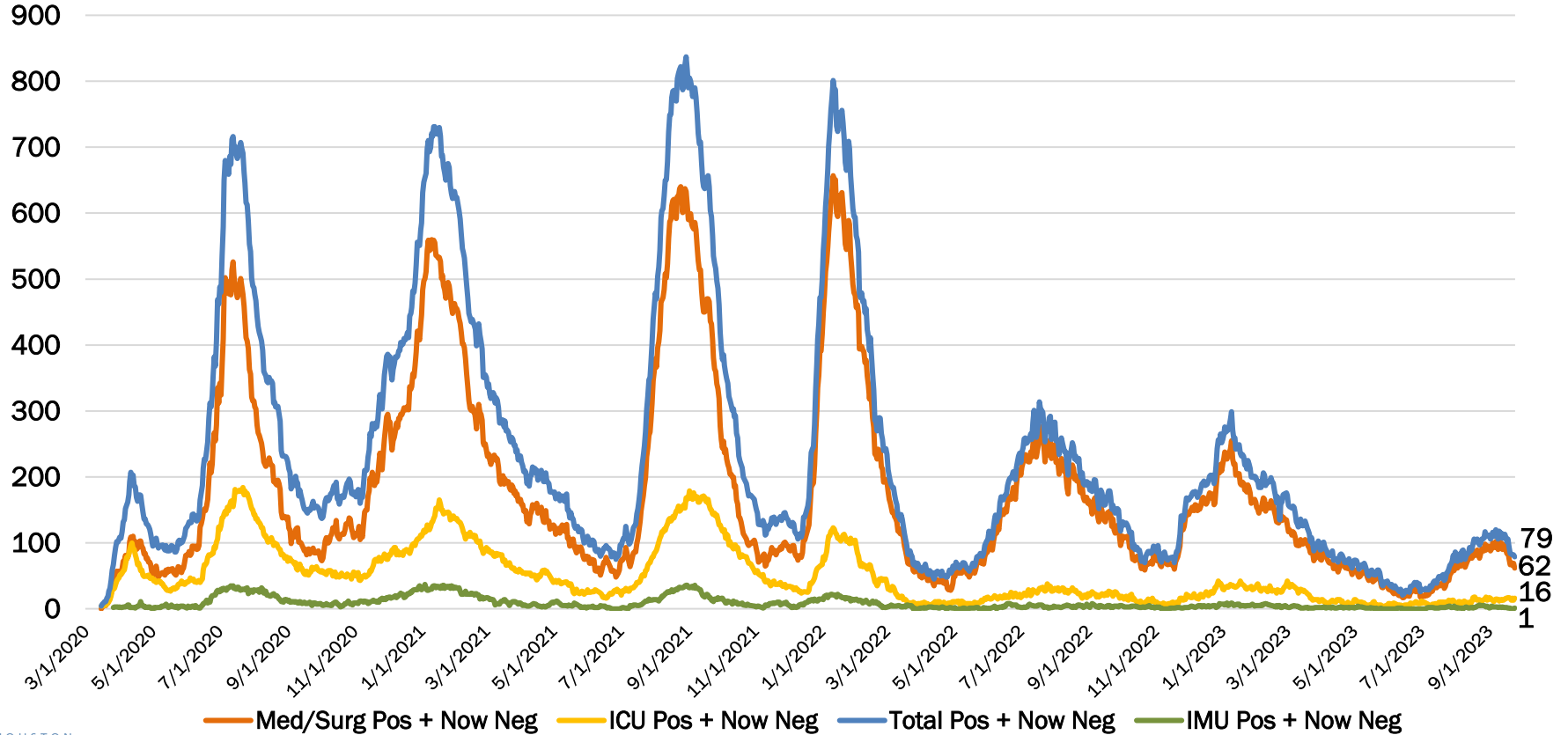
166%

In comparison to July 6, 2020

Positivity Rate

26.2%

## Houston Methodist COVID-19 Patients by Day



# FALL 2023 VACCINES

**What are  
the options?**

**Who is  
eligible?**

**How well do  
they work?**

**When should  
I get it?**

## INFLUENZA



A shot that targets 4 strains of seasonal flu

6 months and older

Reduces the risk of going to the doctor by 53%

October is ideal, as vaccine protection wanes over a season

## COVID-19



Updated vaccine formula targeting XBB - an Omicron subvariant

Options: Moderna and Pfizer (mRNA). Novavax (protein) available soon

6 months and older

Last year, the fall COVID-19 vaccine provided 40-60% additional effectiveness against severe disease

Protection against **severe disease**: Get now

Protection against **infection**: Best to get it right before a wave, which can be challenging to time

**Recently infected?**  
Wait at least 3-4 months

## RSV (OLDER ADULTS)



2 options: GSK and Pfizer. They are slightly different in design, but only at a microscopic level

60 years and older

82-86% efficacy against severe disease

Now: no need to juggle timing as protection is durable

## RSV (PREGNANCY)



Pfizer is actively seeking approval

Pregnant people (then protection will pass to baby for protection in first 6 months of life)

82% efficacy in preventing hospitalization in first 3 months of life. 69% efficacy after 6 months

It's not available yet but once approved, get at 24 to 36 weeks of pregnancy

## RSV MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY



This is not a vaccine (doesn't teach the body to make antibodies) but rather a proactive medication (provides antibodies)

**All** infants <8 months. High-risk infants 8-19 months

Reduces risk of hospitalization and healthcare visits by ~80%

Will be available soon.

Protection lasts 4-6 months





# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR **TOWN HALL CONVERSATION**

For more information about AFib and heart failure,  
please contact Emily Schott at  
[ekschott@houstonmethodist.org](mailto:ekschott@houstonmethodist.org).

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