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The *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal (MDCVJ)* is published 4 times a year by Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas. The journal provides an update from Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center specialists about leading-edge research, diagnosis, and treatments as well as occasional articles or commentary by others.

MDCVJ is written for physicians and should be relied upon for medical education purposes only. It does not provide a complete overview of the topics covered and should not replace the independent judgment of a physician about the appropriateness or risks of a procedure or treatment for a given patient.

U.S. News & World Report ranks the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center's cardiology, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery programs No. 18 in the nation.

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Houston, Texas

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J. Estep, M.D.



M. Loebe, M.D., Ph.D.

**JOURNAL
EDITORS SALUTE
JERRY D. ESTEP
AND MATTHIAS
LOEBE FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO**

**THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON MECHANICAL
ASSIST DEVICES**

The editors of the *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal* extend our appreciation to Jerry D. Estep, M.D., and Matthias Loebe, M.D., Ph.D., for serving as guest editors of this special issue on mechanical circulatory support devices.

Dr. Estep is the medical director of both the heart transplant and LVAD program at the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center and the J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, and an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. After graduating from Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston and completing his residency at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Dr. Estep returned to BCM to complete a cardiology fellowship. Dr. Estep has authored/coauthored more than 100 manuscripts and/or abstracts presented at major society meetings with a focus on advanced heart failure. Several of these publications have defined the role of multimodality imaging post heart transplantation and after LVAD placement and appear in *Circulation*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC)*, *JACC Heart Failure*, *JACC CV Imaging*, and *The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation*. Dr. Estep is actively involved in several multicenter trials including studies for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute evaluating novel medical and device therapies for patients with heart failure. He also serves as a peer review editor for *Circulation*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and the *American Journal of Transplantation*, among others. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Society of Echocardiography and a member of the American Heart Association, the Heart Failure Society of America, and the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation.

Dr. Loebe is chief of the division of thoracic transplant and assist devices at the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, director of thoracic transplantation at the Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center at Houston Methodist Hospital, and a professor of cardiothoracic surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. As an internationally acclaimed researcher and surgeon, Dr. Loebe has authored more than 200 articles, published *The George P. Noon Textbook of Axial Flow*, and is involved in numerous research studies on left ventricular assist devices and heart/lung transplantation. After attending medical school at the Free University in Berlin, Dr. Loebe stayed in Berlin to complete residencies at Hanover Medical School, the German Heart Institute, and the Jewish Hospital; he also completed a fellowship at the German Heart Institute while earning a Ph.D. at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Dr. Loebe was recently honored by the German Association of Transplant Recipients for 25 years of dedicated service in the field of solid organ transplantation.