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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.

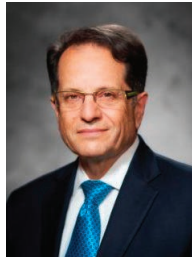
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*U.S. News & World Report* ranks the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center's cardiology, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery programs No. 18 in the nation.

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R. A. Phillips, M.D., Ph.D.

**GUEST EDITOR ROBERT A.  
PHILLIPS OFFERS EXPERT  
GUIDANCE ON SPECIAL  
ISSUE OF THE  
*METHODIST DEBAKEY*  
*CARDIOVASCULAR JOURNAL***

The editors of the *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal* extend a warm thanks to guest editor Robert A. Phillips, M.D., Ph.D., for his expertise in directing this special issue on hypertension. Dr. Phillips is executive vice president and chief medical officer of Houston Methodist in Houston, Texas, where he is responsible for implementing innovations in the practice of medicine, responding to healthcare reform and new payment models, evaluating healthcare delivery redesign, collaborating with colleagues on the patient experience, and assuring system-wide patient safety and quality. He also serves as president and chief executive officer of the Houston Methodist Specialty Physician Group, for which he has championed multiple fiscal and operational efficiencies resulting in increased revenue, lower expenses, better quality, improved access, and enhanced patient experience.

Dr. Phillips graduated in 1980 with a combined M.D./Ph.D. in molecular biology from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where he received the Elster Award for highest academic standing in his class. He went on to complete his internal medicine residency at Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York followed by fellowships in cardiology and hypertension at Mount Sinai. Prior to joining Houston Methodist, Dr. Phillips was professor of medicine and population health research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he was a senior vice president and director of the Heart and Vascular Center of Excellence. Previously, Dr. Phillips served as professor of medicine at New York University School of Medicine, chair of the Department of Medicine at Lenox Hill Hospital, and professor of medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City.

Board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease, Dr. Phillips is a nationally recognized expert in hypertension and cardiovascular disease and has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers. He is hypertension editor for the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, senior associate editor of the *Journal of Clinical Hypertension*, and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Society of Hypertension* and *CardioRenal Medicine*.

Additionally, Dr. Phillips is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Physicians, the American Heart Association (AHA), and the American Society of Hypertension (ASH) and is founding president of the American Population Health Society. He received the 2010 Heart of Gold Award and 2013 Torch of Strength Award from the AHA and was elected to the Association of University Cardiologists in 2012.