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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. 21 in the nation.

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Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center

6565 Fannin Street, Houston, Texas 77030
Telephone: 713-DEBAKEY (713.332.2539)
houstonmethodist.org/debakey-journal

DR. BASEL RAMLAWI GUIDES SPECIAL ISSUE ON MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIAC SURGERY FOR THE *METHODIST DEBAKEY CARDIOVASCULAR JOURNAL*

The editors of the *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal* extend our appreciation to Basel Ramlawi, M.D., for directing this special issue on minimally invasive cardiac surgery. For the past seven years, Basel Ramlawi, M.D., has been an attending surgeon within the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantation at the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center (MDHVC) in Houston, Texas. He also is director of the Houston Methodist Aortic Program and surgeon in the hospital's valve clinic. Before coming to Houston, Dr. Ramlawi held a faculty appointment within the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Columbia University and NY-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. He undertook his medical education at McGill and McMaster Universities followed by cardiac surgical training at the University of Western Ontario. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship funded by the National Institutes of Health and earned an MMSc degree from Harvard Medical School. He subsequently completed an advanced clinical fellowship in heart failure and minimally invasive valve surgery at Columbia University.

Dr. Ramlawi's clinical expertise includes catheter-based and minimally invasive valve repair, thoracic aortic and root surgery, arrhythmia surgery, complex cardiac surgery, and transplant and assist devices. His research interests include minimally invasive and catheter-based valve repair, stroke prevention and neurologic outcomes in cardiac patients, and ventricular assist devices.

He has received several prestigious awards, including the American Heart Association Vivien Thomas Award, The American Federation for Medical Research Henry Christian Award, and the Detweiler Fellowship from The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada. He also was selected as one of Houston's Top Forty Under Forty Award recipients by the *Houston Business Journal*. Dr. Ramlawi has coauthored more than 75 medical and scientific papers, abstracts, and book chapters and is an active speaker at national and international cardiology and cardiovascular surgery conferences.

As of January 2016, Dr. Ramlawi assumed a new role as chairman of the Heart & Vascular Center and director of the Advanced Valve & Aortic Program at Valley Health System in Winchester, Virginia.