

## PORTRAIT OF A CHAIRMAN

How often is a new academic department born? Rarely. Would such an event create a ripple of interest? Absolutely. Is the department likely to survive and thrive? That depends primarily on the new chairman and available resources...which brings me to the reason for this essay.

As part of its strategic plan, The Methodist Hospital administration in a bold stroke has created its own Department of Cardiology - separate from the Department of Medicine, where it resides in most instances. A national search was dutifully conducted for a chairman with the vision and courage to raise such a department to prominence from scratch. (And, I daresay, someone with thick skin and a sated ego, which seem to me to be prerequisites for a fledgling department chairman.) Such an individual was found "in house" in the person of Dr. Miguel A. Quinones, who has worked as a cardiologist at Methodist since his return from military service in 1977.

His background seems ideal for the challenge. A native of Puerto Rico, Dr. Quinones graduated from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine with an Alpha Omega Alpha award. A summer clerkship at Columbia University Hospital in New York City led to a position in their internal medicine residency program. In 1971 he came under the influence of Dr. J.K. Alexander at the VA hospital here in Houston during his cardiology fellowship training at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Alexander became his primary mentor during his cardiology training, shaping his education while instilling the seeds of inquiry and scientific research. In 1975, Dr. Quinones went on to serve as chief of cardiology at the Moncrief Army Hospital in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Returning to Houston and Baylor in 1977, Dr. Quinones joined The Methodist Hospital staff as director of the echocardiography laboratory, which had been established in 1969. This marked the beginning of a long, illustrious research career in the field of echocardiography - complementing his growth as an educator, mentor to many young physicians and superb clinician. His CV is replete with seminal publications addressing cardiac function defined

by echocardiographic techniques. In addition to his educator activities as professor of medicine at Baylor, Dr. Quinones has been central to various educational programs at the American College of Cardiology (ACC), where he chaired the Learning Center Committee and still serves on the Strategic Education Directions Committee. In 2004 he was elected to the ACC Board of Trustees. He has

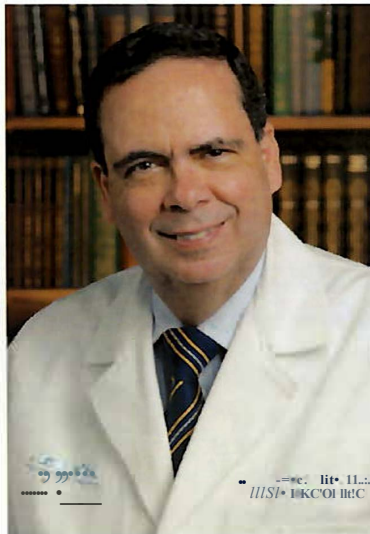
participated on committees related to education and cardiac imaging for the American Heart Association Council of Clinical Cardiology, has served on the board of the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) in addition to a variety of ASE educational writing committees, and his professional activities have led to appointments on many cardiovascular journal editorial boards.

Closer to home, Dr. Quinones has served as the director of Continuing Medical Education at Baylor and as acting chairman of Baylor's Division of Cardiology. He presided as medical director of the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center and as the

center's interim chief. In September 2005 he assumed the chair of Methodist's Department of Cardiology. He is blessed with a loving and supportive family and for years has had the respect and admiration of his colleagues. The thickness of his skin remains to be seen, but when asked how he would like the success of his chairmanship to be judged in years to come, his response was one from a sated ego: "I want the department to be recognized for its individual members - not its chairman."

As for resources to manage and develop a new academic department, the hospital - with its new affiliate partner, Weill Medical College of Cornell University - has already provided a strong foundation and the promise of continued support. Methodist is in a strong financial position to address its strategic plan for patient care, research and education, and the new Department of Cardiology, with its rich heritage in the cardiovascular field, will be a major player in those plans. The Journal of the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center wishes Dr. Quinones Godspeed in his quest.

- William L. Winters, Jr., M.D., Editor-in-Chief



Dr. Miguel A. Quinones

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

**VULNERABLE PLAQUE SUMMIT 2006****Methodist DeBakey Heart Center****Saturday, June 10, 2006****8 a.m. - 3 p.m.****The Houstonian Hotel****Houston, Texas**

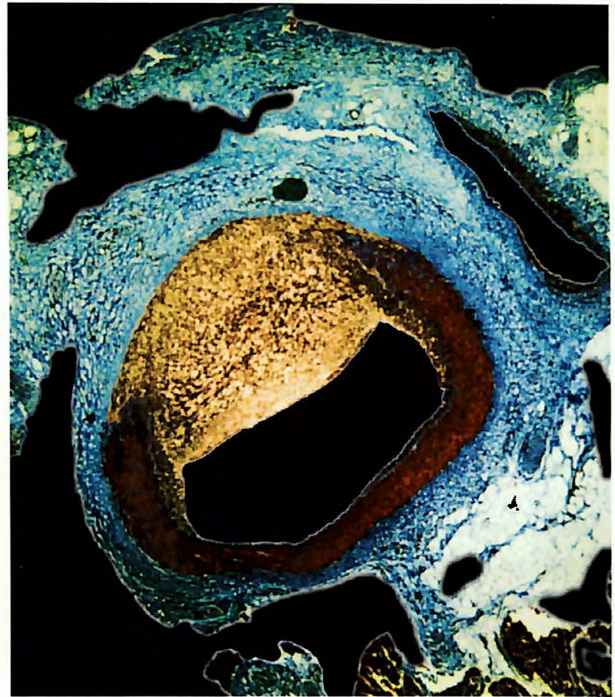
Is there a way to detect a heart attack before it happens? Researchers across the globe are hoping so, and they're looking at vulnerable plaque for possible answers. Vulnerable plaque - the culprit lesion responsible for most heart attacks - is one of the most pressing and debated topics in cardiology, and MDHC is illuminating the debate by hosting the first Vulnerable Plaque Summit.

Directed by MDHC cardiologists Juan F. Granada and Albert E. Raizner, the summit brings together the country's top researchers, clinicians and thought leaders to present the most up-to-date information in the field of vulnerable plaque research. With more than 20 consecutive presentations, this fast-paced, information-packed program will address key issues from all perspectives, including the benefits and risks of early detection in asymptomatic patients and plenty of first-hand experience in detection technologies and therapies.

Scientists and clinicians will share their research, experiences and theories on the correlation between vulnerable plaque and future coronary events, identifying at-risk patients, invasive identification and characterization of non-obstructive lesions, the role of blood cells in assessing risk, the role of systemic and local interventional therapies, and the future of vulnerable plaque research.

The goal, says Granada, is to present the most current data from the "cream of the crop" in vulnerable plaque research.

"Most meetings are biased, with like-minded people in the same field presenting corroborating information," Granada explains. "This summit is designed to assemble experts from different universities, industries and specialties so that all facets of the topic are represented, even opposing views. This first meeting is intentionally broad to present an overview, whereas future meetings will focus on those areas that have seen the most advances in vulnerable plaque research."



Granada, Raizner and fellow MDHC investigator Greg Kaluza are developing an animal model that simulates human vulnerable plaque, with the ultimate goal of understanding how, why and - most importantly - when a heart attack occurs.

This program will be jointly sponsored by Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Methodist DeBakey Heart Center.

**Faculty**

- John Ambrose
- Zahi A Fayad
- Juan F. Granada
- Neal Kleiman
- Eli Lev
- James Muller
- Albert Raizner
- Guillermo Tearney
- Ron Waksman
- Marvin Woodall
- Marco Costa
- Antonio M. Gotto, Jr.
- Greg Kaluza
- Martin B. Leon
- Mohammed Madjid
- Harry Phillips
- Robert Schwartz
- Renu Virmani
- James Willerson

To register for this activity, please call  
**713-441-4CM E (4263).**

## MDHC RESEARCH

### MDHC RESEARCH AT ACC SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 2006

Research and expertise from Methodist DeBakey Heart Center (MDHC) cardiologists was highlighted in more than 25 talks at the 2006 American College of Cardiology (ACC) Scientific Sessions in Atlanta in March.

Topics ranged from advanced cardiac diagnostic imaging to novel therapies for heart failure to new treatments for conditions such as arterial stenosis, atrial fibrillation and valvular heart disease, among others.

"This conference was an exceptional forum to share new ideas in research with our peers across the nation and around the world," said Miguel A. Quinones, M.D., chair of the department of cardiology at The Methodist Hospital and medical director of the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center. "The spirit of collaboration, ingenuity and excellence is central as we prepare our research for presentation at the American College of Cardiology Scientific Sessions."

Four sessions at the prestigious conference were co-chaired by MDHC cardiologists, Dr. William Zoghbi, medical director of the echocardiography laboratory at Methodist, Dr. Guillermo Torre-Amione, medical director of the heart transplant service at Methodist, Dr. Neal Kleiman, medical director of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Methodist, and Dr. John Mahmarian, medical director of nuclear cardiology at Methodist.

MDHC researchers and cardiologists collaborate with The Methodist Hospital Research Institute in pioneering research in areas such as advanced heart failure/transplant, atherosclerosis, preventative cardiology, cardiovascular sciences, cardiovascular surgery, echocardiography, genetics, proteomics, interventional cardiology, nuclear cardiology and vascular surgery.

Presentations given by MDHC physicians at this year's ACC represent six primary areas of research: advanced heart failure, ischemic heart disease, arrhythmia therapy, valvular heart disease, vascular disease and atherosclerosis, and metabolic syndrome and diabetes.



### ONGOING CLINICAL TRAILS

The Methodist DeBakey Heart Center is dedicated to improving clinical outcomes through evidence based-based medicine. Visit [www.debakeyheartcenter.com](http://www.debakeyheartcenter.com) to access information regarding ongoing clinical trails related to cardiovascular disease.