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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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GUEST EDITORS RICHARD ROBBINS AND STEVEN PETAK PROVIDE OVERSIGHT & EXPERTISE FOR SPECIAL ISSUE ON HORMONES AND THE HEART

The editors of the *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal* extend their deepest gratitude to Richard Robbins, M.D., and Steven Petak, M.D., J.D., for overseeing this special issue on hormones and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Robbins holds the Charles and Anne Duncan Presidential Distinguished Chair in Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. He also holds appointments as professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and the Institute for Academic Medicine.

Upon earning his medical degree from the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, Dr. Robbins completed his internal medicine residency at the New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and went on to pursue an endocrinology fellowship at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston. Before moving to Houston, he held faculty positions at the University of Colorado, Yale Medical School, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he also served as chief of the endocrine service.

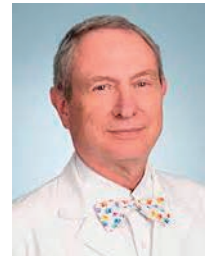
Dr. Robbins founded and served on the board of the Pituitary Society and is the recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. In addition to numerous other awards and honors throughout his career, Dr. Robbins has published more than 120 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals such as *Nature*, *Science*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. He currently serves on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Medicine*. His research focuses on defining the natural history, exploring diagnostic strategies, and developing novel targeted therapies for patients with thyroid cancer.

Dr. Petak is an associate clinical professor at Weill-Cornell Medical College and is division head and chief of the diabetes, endocrinology, and metabolism service at Houston Methodist Hospital. He earned his medical degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago and went on to law school, where he graduated magna cum laude from the University of Houston. After completing his internship and residency at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, he stayed on to serve as chief medical resident and to complete a fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism. Before joining the academic endocrine group at Houston Methodist Hospital in May 2013, Dr. Petak spent 26 years at the Texas Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Endocrinology.

Dr. Petak is a past president of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, the American College of Endocrinology (ACE), and the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) and currently serves as secretary of the board of councilors of the Texas Medical Association, representing the Harris County Medical Society as vice-councilor. In addition, Dr. Petak was designated a Master of the ACE and has received the ACE's Yank Coble Public Service Award, the ISCD's Paul Miller Public Service Award, and the ISCD's Clinician of the Year. For the past 13 years, he has consulted on bone densitometry and endocrine issues for NASA's Johnson Space Center, where he assists the NASA Bone Summit in planning long-duration space missions.



Richard Robbins, M.D.



Steven Petak, M.D., J.D.